

Role Summary

The Urban Design Group is an interdisciplinary team, covering a wide range of scales from strategic regional studies to masterplans, urban regeneration and large architectural projects. Design excellence is our core value, and we believe that this requires an active dialogue between various disciplines. The group brings together several experts from different backgrounds (urban planning, landscape architecture and spatial design, economics and social anthropology, amongst other) to create unique environments and spaces, designed for people, that have positive impacts beyond the projects' boundaries.

We understand that a viable economic strategy is critical for any successful urban development. As we expand the team, we are looking for an Urban Economist to join our multi-disciplinary group. The ideal candidate will have professional experience in urban economics or economic development, possess a broad range of skills that can be applied to international projects, and have an interest in planning and design.

Role Definition

Job Title: Urban Economist

Reporting To: Urban Economist, Associate Partner on a day-to-day basis and ultimately to Head of Urban Design, Senior Partner.

Responsibilities

- Conduct economic and spatial research, and analysis across multiple scales, covering city economies, demographic and socioeconomic trends, real estate markets, industry sectors, and urban policy.
- Contribute to the development of economic narratives, project visions and positioning and strategic rationales behind urban projects.
- Support the integration of economic thinking into planning and design processes.
- Prepare strategic economic programs and briefs, from site-specific projects to large-scale masterplans, based on land use and real estate analysis, demand and supply assessments, space requirement estimate, phasing strategies, and population projections.
- Contribute to R&D initiatives by assisting in the development of tools, methodologies, and analytical approaches for use across urban development projects.
- Support business development initiatives, bids, and competitions by applying economic analysis to strengthen project narratives, identify market opportunities, and inform strategic positioning.
- Contribute, or otherwise assist, as required.
- Through knowledge and compliance with Foster + Partners procedures and standards.
- Equity, diversity & inclusion (EDI) is a core priority. To support and champion the embedding of this focus as a collective workforce responsibility, EDI should be integrated, where relevant, into all workstreams.

Qualities and Skills Required

- Able to demonstrate ability to undertake the above responsibilities.
- Legally able to work in the country in which the position is based.
- Able to manage sensitive and sometimes confidential information.
- Self-motivated and able to take responsibility.
- Able to demonstrate initiative and a proactive approach to daily tasks.

- Flexible attitude.
- Able to build good relationships at all levels, internally and externally.
- Resilient to cope with conflicting demands, able to prioritise duties and work effectively under pressure.
- Able to work as part of an effective team assisting and supporting team members.
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to interpret complex data and translate findings into strategic insights.
- Familiarity with economic, spatial, and real estate analysis methods.
- High proficiency in Excel for data analysis and modelling.
- Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail, especially when supporting multiple workstreams.
- Experience with GIS or other spatial analysis tools is a plus.
- Proactive and curious approach to learning and contributing across diverse projects.
- Able to take ownership of assigned tasks while working collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to contribute to the development of project narratives and briefs.
- Academic or professional experience in one or more of the following fields — urban economics, economic development, real estate, urban planning, or a related discipline.

This description reflects the core activities of the role but is not intended to be all-inclusive and other duties within the group/department may be required in addition to changes in the emphasis of duties as required from time to time. There is a requirement for the postholder to recognise this and adopt a flexible approach to work. Job descriptions will be reviewed regularly and where necessary revised in accordance with organisational needs. Any major changes will be discussed with the postholder.