

Junior Researcher/ Economist (Finance for WASH project) (JER025)

6 month fixed-term contract.

About Aguaconsult

Aguaconsult is an Employee-Owned company with an excellent brand and international profile delivering high-quality consulting services for a range of strategic clients in the water and sanitation sector.

Aguaconsult specialises in the delivery of advisory services in the water and sanitation sector in developing countries. We support governments, development partners (bi-laterals, multilaterals, and foundations), as well as NGOs and research institutes across the project cycle: from policy development, project design, implementation, and evaluation. Working across the globe, we provide research and advisory support on WASH regulation, systems strengthening, service delivery models, institutional and financing arrangements, including legal and policy framework and private sector participation.

About this position

Junior staff usually gain experience across multiple WASH areas ([see our website for focal area details](#)), but the successful candidate for this role will spend 80% of their time providing surge capacity on a specific 'Finance for WASH' study so sound knowledge of **Economics** principals and an interest in **Financing** for water and sanitation services and **International Development** is essential.

There is potential for the position to lead to a permanent position, with an expanded focus on general WASH and climate, when the 'Finance for WASH' study is completed.

Key tasks and responsibilities`

Project specific:

- Conduct desk-based research and synthesise evidence from academic and grey literature
- Assist in mapping and classifying financial models using a structured typology
- Support screening and selection of up to 10 relevant case studies
- Develop clear, structured briefs summarising project financing models
- Track contextual variables (risk, policy, investor appetite) across different cases
- Support synthesis of findings and drafting of outputs, including summary tables and slide decks
- Join interviews or stakeholder calls as a notetaker or data organiser

General:

- Report editing and drafting
- Assist with the co-ordination and management of projects for a range of clients including national governments, UN organisations, bilateral donors, major international NGOs and other research centres.
- Co-ordination of field data collection
- Assistance with the preparation of other communication materials: PowerPoint presentations, blog posts, etc
- Attend conference and sector meetings, when required
- Assist with general administrative and content-related tasks for the company as required
- Review potential project opportunities and identify calls for proposals
- Assist in the preparation of technical and financial proposals
- Assist with project management: plan and coordinate project activities, sub-contracts drafting, follow-up on project outputs, liaise with clients and associated consultants

Profile

The candidates will have a keen interest to work in international development, especially on social and environmental issues with Aguaconsult. This role would suit a recent graduate.

We are looking for:

- Strong desk research and analytical skills
- Ability to organise and interpret complex financial or institutional information
- Excellent writing and synthesis abilities
- Interest in development finance and WASH and familiar with PPPs, climate finance, or donor-funded development projects
- Comfortable working independently and iteratively

Skills and experience

Essential Desirable

**Have the right to work in the UK with no restrictions	Yes	
Master's degree, with a Bachelor's or Master's in Economics, International Development, Finance, or a related field. Or equivalent experience and proof of academic and professional written outputs.	Yes	
Advanced business level language skills (written and spoken) in English	Yes	
Bilingual (or advanced language skills) in French/ Spanish/ Portuguese		Yes
1-3 years' experience in a consultancy, NGO, government or development agency, or research organisation		Yes
Experience of living and/or working in the Global South		Yes
Advanced skill level in data analysis or data analysis programme		Yes
Interest in Water and Sanitation in Developing countries		Yes
Able to work from, or have meetings at, the Wivenhoe office (CO7 9GS).		Yes
**We are unable to sponsor candidates for this position , but we do warmly welcome applicants who have the right to work in the UK or are eligible for a 2-year Graduate UK work visa.		

Post:	Junior Researcher/ Economist (Finance for WASH)
Conditions:	Full time 40hrs per week, (0.8 time considered) 6-month Fixed term PAYE contract. October 2025 – March 2026 Contracted in the UK (UK tax resident).
Location:	TBD Remote UK - some meetings in Wivenhoe and/ or London may still be required. Or Hybrid - work from the Wivenhoe office 1-2 days per week (more if you like!)
Remuneration (for fixed term contract):	Salary for this fixed term role - Grade B.1 to B.3 equates to £25,920.75 to £28,153.75 PA. Dependent on relevant experience and profile. 28 days' leave plus 8 days' bank holidays per annum; 8% employer pension.
Deadline:	9am Wednesday 24th September 2025
Application:	To apply for this role please send: - your CV - a brief covering letter (no more than 2 pages), recruitment@aguaconsult.co.uk with the title: [Your Name] JER025 Application