

MANAGING CONSULTANT: COST ASSESSMENT

Summary

Location: London, UK (with hybrid working)

Position: Managing Consultant – Cost Assessment

Role

The successful candidate will support our work across regulated sectors (energy, water, transport and telecoms) and will have the following responsibilities:

- Conducting robust cost benchmarking and econometric analysis to assess efficiency of different parties.
- Analysing quantitative datasets to derive meaningful insights.
- Interpreting results and translating technical analysis into clear and concise reports for clients.
- Manage junior staff and support the development of others in the CEPA team.

Requirements

Experience – preferably at least 7 years of professional experience in conducting cost assessment or regulatory policy analysis. This may be in consultancy, for regulated companies, regulators or government departments.

Expertise – Demonstrated expertise in cost modelling, statistical analysis and data interpretation.

Technical skills – Proficiency in statistical software, such as Stata, R or Python, with detailed practical working in Microsoft Teams.

Project management – Proven ability to manage multiple projects, meet deadlines and work effectively in a team.

Communication skills – Excellent written and verbal communication skills to present complex ideas to different audiences.

Benefits & culture

CEPA offers a dynamic and supportive working environment that fosters professional growth and development. As a member of our team, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with leading experts on influential projects. We provide a highly competitive salary, discretionary reward scheme, comprehensive benefits package with health and life insurance, and flexible working arrangements to ensure a healthy work-life balance.

Application process & deadline

We encourage you to apply by submitting your up-to-date CV and a cover letter detailing your relevant experience and motivations for joining CEPA. Please send your application to careers@cepa.co.uk. We will assess applications on a rolling basis. Candidates will be assessed over two phases: an interview and a presentation.

For further information, please click on the following [link](#).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Overview

CEPA is seeking an outstanding individual to join our London office as a Managing Consultant, supporting our work across regulated sectors such as energy, water, transport and telecoms. Economic regulation is at the core of CEPA's business. We advise economic regulators and regulated companies in the UK and internationally on regulatory framework design, implementation and delivery. You will be expected to focus largely on leading CEPA's cost assessment and efficiency benchmarking work in the regulated sectors, and work on network regulation issues more broadly.

Cost assessment is an important part of network regulation and economic policy to assess efficient expenditure to set price controls that support development of policy goals such as security of supply, improved environmental outcomes and greater resilience in an affordable way. Price control cost assessments increasingly are needing to evolve to take into account new forms of data, uncertainties around technological changes and any changes in regulatory frameworks to give greater flexibility to regulated networks.

Being a Managing Consultant at CEPA is an exciting opportunity to help public and private sector clients to navigate this evolving landscape. The successful candidate may also provide support more broadly across CEPA's work in network regulation and economics. Working with CEPA offers a range of challenging and meaningful projects, often requiring innovative application of economic frameworks and analytical techniques.

Examples of recent projects we have delivered in cost assessment include:

- Developing cost models and providing support on cost assessment as Ofgem's Strategic Partner in Economics for the RII0-2 price controls.
- Assessing the efficiency of costs for Irish and Northern Irish gas and electricity networks for their network price controls.
- Working with Ofwat to improve their modelling suite for base costs in the water and sewerage supply chains.
- Cost allocation and cost assessment at Heathrow Airport.
- Reviewing the efficiency of opex at Dublin Airport.
- Analysing scope for productivity and efficiency improvements for National Highways.
- Supporting regulated companies with cost benchmarking studies, including econometric modelling and unit cost analysis.

The ideal candidate for this role will strengthen CEPA's capabilities and service offering in cost assessment and network regulation more broadly. They will be accepted by clients as an expert, with demonstrated consulting experience, a solid understanding of UK and international approaches to cost assessment and network regulation, and a strong CV in these areas. The candidate will have the ability to identify how to use quantitative and qualitative analysis to best crack the challenge posed by the client, and guide resulting analysis by others. They will guide the structuring and preparation of high-quality client deliverables and will be recognised by colleagues as an effective and supportive leader of teams, and for their wider contribution to the successful operation of the business. Excellent communication skills, with a good ability to tailor styles to different situations, are essential.

The candidate should be able to lead compelling proposals, leveraging their expertise as a valuable selling point, and generate annual net revenue of £250k-£500k. They will gather insights from their professional networks. They will appropriately manage delivery trade-offs across different areas of responsibility.

Joining CEPA provides an opportunity to make a significant impact from day one. As a smaller economic consultancy, there will be extensive interaction with staff at all levels, as well as direct client engagement.

Further information on the work of CEPA's in regulated sectors can be found at <https://www.cephaco.uk/>.

Main responsibilities

- Drive delivery and communication of high-quality analytical projects informed by understanding of the questions that the client is trying to solve. The focus of your work will be offering expert advice in relation to cost assessment, including but not limited to cost efficiency benchmarking.
- Exercise sound commercial skills and judgement, delivering a portfolio of projects within agreed budget and timescales.
- Achieve a target utilisation of 60-70%, managing a portfolio of 2-3 medium-size projects.
- Support and manage junior staff, both in delivery of work and in a pastoral role.
- Lead development of compelling proposals, as part of maintaining a sustainable project pipeline for the business, particularly in cost assessment and network regulation. Your CV will be important in winning work.
- Use insights from discussions with external networks to inform proposals and projects.
- Identify and lead initiatives to maintain and build the capability of CEPA to win and deliver work effectively in cost assessment and network regulation.
- Support an inclusive culture at CEPA.
- Commit to ongoing personal and professional development, actively seeking feedback from diverse learning environments like practical experience and formal training, and using it to grow yourself and your colleagues.
- Help implement CEPA's operational priorities for operation of a successful consultancy business.

Skills and experience required

- Strong understanding of economics and its application to network regulation, particularly expert and up to date knowledge of cost assessment techniques and the regulatory frameworks for utility networks in the UK.
- Demonstrated expertise in providing analysis and guidance on how to analyse complex questions in cost assessment and network regulation.
- Proficiency in technical packages used in cost efficiency benchmarking, including the use of Stata or similar software, is necessary.
- Proficient in using Microsoft Office applications (Excel, Word, PowerPoint). Understanding and experience with other analytical tools and programming languages like Python and/or R is desirable.
- Ability to communicate effectively with clients, colleagues, and partners – whether through meetings, emails or leading the production of high-quality deliverables.
- Effective collaboration and adaptability to various roles and teams, with proven skills in people management and motivation. This includes working within multidisciplinary project teams, including economists, academic advisors, engineers and accountants.
- Confident communication with clients and external stakeholders in diverse settings to establish and nurture long-term relationships.
- Strong business acumen and decision-making abilities, capable of delivering high-quality work across multiple projects within tight deadlines and allocated budgets.

Qualifications required

Candidates should have:

- At least an undergraduate degree(s) in economics, or in a relevant subject (e.g. engineering). A post-graduate degree is desirable.
- Preferably 7+ years of relevant experience working in cost assessment and network regulation policy, preferably in a consulting context.

Working at CEPA

CEPA is a small, friendly organisation operating an office in London overlooking Lincoln's Inn Fields. Outside of work, there is an opportunity to mix with colleagues at an annual awayday event, the annual Christmas party, and informal social events throughout the year organised by staff members.

Most of your day-to-day work will be conducted in our London office or at home. However you may be required, at times, to travel and work at clients' sites (in the UK and internationally). We are currently working on a hybrid basis with a requirement to spend at least 50% of time on average working from our office or on client site.

Pay and benefits

Our expectation is that this will be a full-time role.

CEPA offers a highly competitive remuneration package for its staff, including a discretionary annual bonus and a profit-share scheme on top of the base salary.

Other staff benefits include:

- health and life insurance,
- a 5% employer pension contribution,
- 25 days paid holiday per year plus UK bank holidays, and
- a corporate 'cycle to work' scheme.

Application process

Applicants should submit a full CV and cover letter to our recruitment team via CEPA's website by clicking on the Apply button or via email to careers@cepa.co.uk.

Candidates who are successful with their initial application will be invited for a first round interview. This is expected to be followed by a further assessment stage involving a presentation on a question in cost assessment/network regulation and a second interview.

CEPA welcomes applications from all sections of the community. We recognise and actively promote the benefits of a diverse workforce and are committed to treating all employees with dignity and respect regardless of race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

CEPA is proud to be certified as Disability Confident Committed. We will make adjustments for those who require them to ensure our recruitment process is inclusive and accessible.



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