



# Data Fellowship Project 2023

## Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) – Progressing People-centred Approaches to Redesigning Local Economies

### Background to CLES

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) is the national organisation for local economies. Established in 1986, we are a Manchester-based think tank with charitable status.

Our work focuses on inclusive local economic development and includes events, workshops, training, research and economic analysis. We work with people across the UK, Ireland and beyond, including national governments, councils, the third sector, health organisations and many other partners. We have an international reputation for our pioneering work on community wealth building and are the lead organisation for the movement in the UK.

### CLES's Mission

We act as a critical friend to local economies, by working with the economic actors in places to bring them together, connect them to progressive agendas, devise solutions and deliver change.

This practice-based research also enables us to advocate for change to national debates. We do this by: building progressive coalitions; amplifying innovative local economic approaches; and stimulating governments of all scales to enable local economies to reach their full potential.

### Project Outline

The intern will be allocated a line manager/ mentor and included in relevant team meetings and events. Their project will be relatively self-standing, so independent work can be done flexibly. We operate a hybrid remote/office-working model.

The key aim and objective of the internship is to produce a report informing CLES's work on progressing people-centred approaches to redesigning local economies. This report has the potential to be published and disseminated at the CLES Summit in November.

Depending on the particular skills and interests of the intern, we envisage the intern's tasks to include:

- Defining a specific research question that can be answered with feasibly available data
- Working with the CLES team to identify relevant data sources, and refining existing literature reviews
- Conducting primary and secondary research to build relevant datasets
- Carrying out relevant analysis of data
- Conducting research and interviews with relevant stakeholders to define the research question, refine the approach, and contextualise quantitative findings with qualitative insights



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## Application Criteria

### Essential:

- Proficiency in the analysis of quantitative data arising from multiple sources of insight
- Advanced Microsoft Excel and knowledge of database software (e.g. SQL, R)
- Independent worker with strong organisational skills
- A solutions-orientated and enabling approach to anticipating and finding solutions to potential barriers to and opportunities for inclusive local economic development
- Deft communication and report-writing skills

### Desirable:

- An interest in putting theory into practice, and applying learning to a real world problem
- An interest in UK government major policy agendas, including levelling up and devolution

## Benefits of interning at CLES

Exposure to the work of an independent think tank working within the policy, insight, transformation and strategy space on agendas of national and local importance, and on a project that will make a tangible difference.

## Supporting Information

Find out more about CLES's mission, values, aims and objectives at <http://www.cles.org.uk>

## Selection Method

Online interview