



# THE EDGE PROGRAMME

*(Economic Development Graduate Experience)*

A SPECIFIC TAILORED IED  
OFFER TO ATTRACT NEW  
POSTGRADUATE MEMBERS  
INTO THE IED AND THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
PROFESSION.

## INTRODUCTION

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The IED is the representative body for the Economic Development Profession in the UK with individual and corporate members from across the public and private sectors. That membership spans disciplines such as business support, economics, economic geography, planning, regeneration, education and academia.

The IED's mission is to support, develop and connect our members, represent and champion the profession, and influence and inform policy.

One aspect of this is to seek to attract new entrants to the various disciplines that contribute to economic development and to membership of the IED.

In addition to the existing policy and professional development, lobbying and networking functions already carried out, the IED is now seeking to collaborate with academic institutions to encourage Post Graduate students to consider a career in economic development.

# PROPOSAL

The IED wishes to work with a limited number of academic institutions delivering relevant Post Graduate courses in order to:

- **Enhance the academic offer**
- **Present students with expanded academic and career opportunities**
- **Strengthen the IED research base**
- **Enlarge and diversify the economic development labour pool, and**
- **Broaden IED membership**

The proposition that we would be putting to Postgraduate students interested in a career in economic development would be as follows:

**“ IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THEN WE'RE INTERESTED IN YOU ”**

Working in economic development offers a stimulating, varied and worthwhile career. There are opportunities all across the UK and beyond. Entrants to the profession can come from a variety of disciplines, can find themselves working in public, private, or third sectors and can expect to work on projects of significance in local communities, across regions, or nationally.

IED members include individuals now working at the most senior positions in both the public and private sectors.

## £20 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DURING YOUR COURSE

WHAT THE IED WILL DO FOR YOU	WHAT YOU WILL DO FOR US	BENEFITS TO YOU	BENEFITS TO IED	BENEFITS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
<b>Help embed you in wider policy debates</b>	Actively engage in IED policy discussion and events	Access to IED research and intelligence and to IED members	New members New perspectives	Expansion of talent pool Labour supply
<b>Create an IED Graduate network and graduate section on the IED website</b>	Join it, participate in it and sustain it	Interaction with others with the same professional interest	More website traffic, additional membership interaction and dynamism	New interaction and networking between new members of the profession
<b>Access to all IED Webinars</b>	Join and participate in discussions	Interaction with members of profession. New sources of learning and information.	Additional contributions to webinars	Additional ideas and vitality.
<b>Dissertation support/mentoring</b>	Dissertation on a topic of interest to IED & Economic Development	Access to members knowledge and experience	New research and intelligence	Broadening of the knowledge base
<b>Publication of article of interest on IED Channels</b>	Produce a discussion or 'think piece' on a topical subject.	Exposure to IED members and others interested in Economic Development	New inputs to further stimulate public debate	Broadening of discussion
<b>Circulate your CV to IED members</b>	Provide a CV specifically focussed on working in economic development	Preferential access to hundreds of potential employers all over the country	Improved efficiency of labour supply to members	Improved efficiency of labour supply to profession
<b>Access to the IED jobs Board</b>	Visit the jobs board, apply for the jobs and improve the pool of potential candidates	Preferential access to job opportunities in economic development	Increased traffic to IED website and jobs board	Improved efficiency of labour supply to profession
<b>'Class of the year'/Graduate of the year' at IED Annual Conference</b>	Attend, assist with, and potentially present at the IED Conference	Access to and exposure at the largest economic development networking event in the UK	A new additional aspect to the Annual Conference	Added vitality to the profession