

## **Internship Opportunity – “Vocational training, on-the-job training, and resilience to the COVID-19 shock”**

### **1.The project**

The project aims to understand what policymakers can do to increase resilience to adverse economic shocks such as the current COVID-19 crisis, by documenting how different skills training programs increase resilience and facilitate recovery. This study builds on a previous RCT (Alfonsi et al. 2020) in which economically disadvantaged youth were offered either formal vocational training or informal on-the-job training. The RCT included over 1,700 youth and was implemented in 2013 finding that both vocational training and on-the-job training has sizable positive effects on employment in the three years after the end of the training. More information about the project is available at: <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/initiative-project/vocational-training-job-training-and-resilience-covid-19-shock>.

As part of this project, we are running three additional phone surveys of our sample of youth, to shed light on how these training interventions help the resilience of workers to the pandemic, and to study their long-term effects.

### **2.Organization Description & Research team**

IGREC (International Growth Research & Evaluation Center) is an independent research organization based in Uganda that applies rigorous research and evaluation research to development programs. IGREC aims at building a global linkage between researchers and decision-makers to design, rigorously evaluate, and define possible and cost-effective solutions to existing social-economic problems

IGREC works in close contact with faculty members and PhD students from leading Economics departments. To learn more about IGREC see: <https://igrec-ug.org/>

The PIs on the project are: L. Alfonsi (PhD, UC Berkeley), V. Bassi (USC), O. Bandiera (LSE), R. Burgess (LSE), I. Rasul (UCL), and A. Vitali (PhD, UCL). O. Veroux is the research assistant and I. Ayado (IGREC) the research associate. The intern will work under by O. Veroux’s daily supervision and will periodic exposure to the PIs with the possibility of participating in brainstorming sessions once the analysis phase begins.

### **3.Job description**

The intern will have the opportunity to take on substantial responsibility in program design, implementation, monitoring, research, and evaluation. The intern will be primarily involved in the new data collection that will be launched at the beginning of September. The position is remote.

The main duties and responsibilities of the intern will include:

1. Participate in the data collection activities, such as:
  - a. Contribute to the design of quantitative survey instruments.
  - b. Manage the field implementation of the surveys – this will involve monitoring the central server as well as the activities of enumerators in the field to ensure maximum data quality.
  - c. Manage and organize the data coming in from the field to the central server using SurveyCTO and STATA.
2. Support data cleaning and data management activities and assist the research team in data analysis as needed using STATA and LaTeX.
3. Contribute to report writing on the progress of fieldwork.

### **4.Timing & Compensation**

Internship period: *1st September- 30th November*

The dates are somewhat flexible, but it is essential that the intern will be available at the beginning of September for the new data collection kick off.

Minimum availability of 12 weeks full time is required.

The internship is unpaid. The experience can be converted into a curricular internship.

### **5.Desired Background**

- MSc in Economics or related quantitative discipline. Outstanding first-year students in a two-year MSc program will be considered.
- Excellent knowledge of STATA.
- Knowledge of LaTeX is preferred.
- Good knowledge of Development Economics and Econometrics.
- Good command of English
- Organizational skills and high attention to detail.
- Proactivity and motivation.

### **6.Value of the internship for MSc/MA students**

At the end of the internship, the candidate will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to participate and contribute effectively to a large-scale research project in a developing country. In particular, the internship will provide the candidate with:

- First-hand experience of how academic research projects-are concretely carried out in the field of development economics.
- Ability to apply theoretical concepts to data (attrition, spillovers, internal validity, etc.).
- Training in the use of STATA and other survey software (Survey CTO).

### **7.How to apply**

To apply, please send a CV, a short cover letter (one-page max) and a recently written sample STATA.do file to: oaveroux@hotmail.it

Please write “VOC-internship application” followed by your last name in the subject of your application email. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.