

World Bank Group

International Finance Corporation

Job Title: Research Assistant

Department: Economics and Market Research

Appointment Type: Short-term Consultant

Location: Washington, DC

Start date: As soon as possible.

Duration: Up to 150 days in a fiscal year, with a possibility of renewal

Remuneration: STT or STC level depending on qualifications and experience

Closing date for the receipt of applications: April 15, 2024

Background / General description:

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on private investment in emerging economies. The organization operates in more than 100 countries, using capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities that work for development.

IFC Economics and Market Research (CER) is a new Department in the Economics and Private Sector Development Vice Presidency Unit (CED VPU). This department is a strong hub for economic research and creation of IFC flagship reports, country diagnostic and sector analytical work, and country macro and markets risk work. Specifically, the department leads on the creation of upgraded Country Private Sector Diagnostic reports and coordinate IFC contributions to Country Climate and Development reports; create flagship IFC reports and academic articles related to private sector development, both through internal staff research and at times in collaboration with universities and other international organizations; organize academic conferences, workshops, and forums; provide country risk and market updates to IFC Risk VPU and to IFC Management; and monitor country macroeconomics and financial market developments in client countries.

The department is looking for two research assistants to support its growing research workstreams. The topical focus of our research group includes, but is not limited to, local capital and banking market development, digital economy/finance, entrepreneurship, energy access and green transition, food security, trade and value chains, firm productivity, growth and job creation, gender and inclusion. The Research Assistant will support and contribute to IFC economic research reports, develop new analytical articles, working closely with staff. Candidates should be fluent English speakers, motivated and dynamic professionals, with solid academic background in economics and analytical skills. Selected candidates will report primarily to one member of staff, with assignments that may span several projects and staff in the department.

Terms of Reference

- Processing, compiling, and management of large-scale data sets ranging from traditional survey data to unconventional novel data sources.
- Perform empirical analysis. Prepare charts and tables.
- Support the preparation of questionnaires for surveys.
- Support and supervise survey implementation.
- Collect and code information from qualitative sources.

- Draft sections of studies, prepare syntheses, presentations, and bibliographies.
- Conduct literature reviews.
- Proofread and edit documents.
- Support the organization of online and in-person events.
- Support communication activities online.
- Support research and analysis.
- Liaise regularly with staff and external associates working on the topics assigned.

Qualifications

- Completed undergraduate or graduate degree in economics, finance, or a related field. Candidates who are planning to apply for a PhD program in economics or finance within the next 2 years are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Strong analytical and quantitative skills with good knowledge in applied statistics and management of large data sets.
- Excellent command of STATA is required. Knowledge of python, R, MATLAB or any other statistical software is a plus.
- Ability to write well-documented, reproducible code for data processing pipelines, and analysis.
- Experience in working with firm-level data and micro surveys and/or geospatial data and/or data scraping is a plus.
- Excellent drafting and communication skills in English is required. Working knowledge of another language is a plus.
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint.
- Excellent organizational skills, intellectual curiosity, creativity, and communication and team skills. High level of personal and professional integrity. Self-starter. Strong ability to function well in a multi-cultural environment and working in teams.
- Flexibility, responsiveness, and ability to manage multiple activities to tight deadlines.
- Strong interest in conducting academic and policy-relevant research.
- Research interest in private sector development.

Applications must take the form of a Curriculum Vitae (CV) and a brief cover email sent directly to Gleice Zanettin De Marrocos, gmarrocos@ifc.org by **April 15**, with the subject “RA Application – [your name]”. For any enquiries, please send an email to Maty Konte (mkonte@ifc.org), Santiago Reyes (sreyesortega@ifc.org) and Verena Wiedemann (vwiedemann@ifc.org).