

Research Associate - Delivering Inclusive Financial Development and Growth (0.5 FTE)

Fixed term for 1 year in the first instance

Job Ref: REQ16704

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

To work with Dr Ahmad Ahmad and Prof Christopher Green on an ESRC/DFID-funded research programme entitled "Delivering Inclusive Financial Development and Growth". This programme consists of several related workstreams. The researcher will be expected to work primarily on two of these workstreams: **(1) Cross-border Bank Contagion and Financial Development in East African Countries**; and: **(2) Mobile Technology, Financial Inclusion and Poverty-Reduction in Selected African Countries**.

The work will involve two distinct methodologies. Both workstreams will involve the formulation and estimation of econometric models to test various hypotheses about contagion or financial inclusion respectively. Data for this purpose will be downloaded from public databases such as The World Bank *Findex* surveys, and also supplied directly by agencies in East and West Africa as available. In addition, Workstream 2 will include the formulation and implementation of a structured survey concerning mobile phone use in Ghana (West Africa), the results of which will be analysed during the project.

Job Duties

- To assist in the formulation of econometric models to test for the impact of mobile phone usage on financial inclusion
- To explore online databases concerned with financial inclusion such as World Bank *Findex* and to download relevant data to test models of financial inclusion
- To estimate and interpret models of financial inclusion using **Stata** or similar econometric package
- To assist in the formulation of econometric models to test for cross-border contagion
- To explore online databases concerned with bank data such as **Bankscope** and download data required to study cross-border contagion
- To estimate and interpret models of contagion using **Stata** or similar econometric package
- To assist with the development of a structured survey of mobile phone usage in Ghana and to code and analyse the results as they become available using a standard econometric package

- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g. through Staff Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the project team and the host department
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature of the position

Points To Note

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility

Professor Chris Green, Professor of Economics and Finance

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience in formulating and estimating empirical economic models using standard econometric software.	1, 3
	Experience in using and interpreting standard econometric software such as (but not confined to) Eviews or Stata , especially for panel data analysis.	1, 3
Skills and abilities	Ability to work with and extract data from large databases such as (but not confined to) World Bank Global Findex Survey and Bankscope	1, 3
	Working knowledge of Word, Excel, Power Point	1, 3
	Ability to work independently as part of a multi-national team	3
	Good interpersonal, and organisational skills	3
	Good written and oral communication skills	1, 3
	Willingness to travel as required	1, 3
Training	Willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required	3
Qualifications	Degree in Economics or Finance; and a completed Ph.D. in Finance, or in Economics with specialism in a finance-related subject	1, 3
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Skills and abilities	Knowledge of survey-research methods.	1, 3
	Ability to write academic papers for leading journals	1, 3

Conditions of Service

The position is part-time 0.5 FTE and fixed term for 12 months in the first instance with a possibility of renewal beyond one year in the event that further external funding becomes available. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6 (£29,301 - £38,183 pro rata), a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff/Operational and Administrative staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements. We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries should be made to Professor Christopher Green, Professor of Economics and Finance by email at C.J.Green@lboro.ac.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1509 222711; or Dr Ahmad Ahmad, A.H.Ahmad@lboro.ac.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1509 222719.

Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is **11 November 2016**.