



Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Research Fellow

Department/Centre/Institute: Department of Management

Accountable to: Associate Professor in Management with a dotted reporting line to the Head of Firms,

Job Summary

The Department of Management and the International Growth Centre (hosted in the Department of Economics) at the London School of Economics are seeking to appoint a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow for a duration of up to three years.

The International Growth Centre is working in partnership with Aceli Africa to evaluate the Aceli Africa Initiative. This initiative is a market-based platform that aims to address the constraints to agricultural SME lending in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda. Aceli Africa will provide financial incentives to increase the risk appetite of 15+ financial institutions (both global lenders and local banks) while also facilitating technical assistance to expand the ability of high-potential SMEs to qualify for and manage financing.

The appointed Post-Doctoral Research Fellow will work in close collaboration with the PI (Rocco Macchiavello (LSE)) and other members of the Evaluation Team (Vittorio Bassi (USC), Lorenzo Casaburi (Zurich) and other researchers from the IGC network). There will be multiple projects coming out of this partnership – including, but not limited to, evaluating alternative policies supporting lending to SMEs in agricultural value chains, understanding the industrial organizations and market structure of banking systems in emerging markets and their macroeconomic implications, and evaluating technical assistance programs to firms. It is expected that the Post-Doctoral Fellow will play a driving role in several of these projects depending on skills and interest. The role will involve a mix of developing research opportunities and conducting rigorous research as well as engaging with financial institutions, stakeholders, and policymakers.

Applicants must hold, or be near the completion of, a PhD in economics, finance or closely related discipline. Although applications from all relevant fields will be considered, particular consideration will be given to candidates with a demonstrated ability to conduct research at the world frontier in one or more of the following areas: micro-econometrics techniques for policy evaluation, industrial organization, finance, micro and macro development. The candidate should possess excellent quantitative skills in economic analysis alongside a commitment to rigorous, policy relevant, research at the intersection of finance and agriculture with a particular emphasis on East Africa. Excellent communications and organisational skills are also required.

This is a fixed-term position for up to three years. There is the possibility of an extension after this date as well. The role requires no teaching responsibilities. We particularly encourage applications from women, black and ethnic minority candidates. Please note that for this post, we may be able to offer visa sponsorship to the successful candidate.



Duties and Responsibilities

Range of Research Activities and Responsibilities

The primary responsibility will be co-leading the evaluation of Aceli Africa. This involves:

- Designing the various interventions and survey instruments
- Supervising and executing of the evaluation
- Writing reports, academic papers, briefs related to the evaluations
- Initiating and sustaining links with relevant external stakeholders to foster collaboration and influence decision-making.
- Presenting research to donors and various stakeholders
- Organising matchmaking workshops, conferences, and seminars

Activities relating to administration and management and/or School service may include:

- Playing a constructive role in the life of the International Growth Centre.
- Training and managing the work of the evaluation research team.

Please note, we expect that the postdoc research fellow will contribute actively to the research projects around the ACELI evaluation, while also working on independent research. All of the above subject to the contractual obligations imposed by the external funding agency and with the agreement of the grant-holder, Principal Investigator and/or Centre Director.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: [click here](#)

Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.