



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 Officer: Africa Trade, Political Economy & Trade Law

Department/Division: Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa **Accountable to:** African Trade Programme Director

Job Summary

The post is for a Research Officer to support a new research theme on African trade, trade law, and political economy at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA). The candidate will be a part of the newly established Africa Trade Programme that will be led by Dr David Luke.

The post holder will be expected to conduct original academic research on trade policy, trade law, and political economy in the African context. The post holder will specifically carry out independent research to assess the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) policies and agreements in Africa. The post holder will also be required to monitor and track trade negotiations in which African countries are engaged and identify practical policy measures and other changes to improve the developmental impact of trade. The research conducted will be aimed at (1) producing an annual trade yearbook for public consumption that will include reviews and analyses of current developments and trends, and (2) contribute to setting up a repository of African trade agreements including annotated guidance to the contents. The post holder will also be expected to produce high quality academic publications and contribute to publications and reports for a broader audience, such as consultation and policy interventions, through blogs and other social media outlets. The appointee will also work with a wider team of LSE academics working on African-focused research and will assist both the Programme Director and the FLIA Director in the organisation of regular programme meetings, including with potential programme donors.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Conducting original research on African trade policy, particularly AfCFTA and on African political economy as it relates to trade, working independently and as part of a team.
- Writing-up research for publication in a variety of modes including for peer reviewed journals.
- Preparing reports and other documentation related to the programme (e.g. writing and preparing the African Trade Yearbook, website updating and reporting to donors).
- Initiating and sustaining links with external bodies to foster collaborations and partnerships.
- Contributing creative solutions to research challenges.
- Presenting research papers at appropriate events and meetings.
- Supporting the co-ordination, preparation and writing of research bids to a variety of funding sources.
- Playing a constructive role in the life of the Institute.
- Managing the activities of the research on a day-to-day basis.
- Supporting the Director in developing the wider activities on the programme.

**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.