

Research Assistant on Big Data Analytics (6 months)

Station: National Treasury, Pretoria, South Africa.

The Research Assistant will assist Research Associate for the [Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development project](#).

About the Work

The recent availability of tax administrative and other micro-data on enterprises and jobs in South Africa provides a valuable resource for policy-relevant academic research. This allows for a deeper understanding of the functioning of the private sector, the labour market and public revenue mobilisation. The goal is to create well documented longitudinal datasets with key variables that can be augmented with research topic-specific variables. This serves as a basis for not only tax research but also for other research strands that require micro-level administrative data. In this project, researchers from UNU-WIDER, the National Treasury of the Republic of South Africa (NT) and the South African Revenue Service (SARS), will build and expand the tax administrative and other micro data available to researchers in South Africa. Policies that promote development need to be built on reliable facts, and administrative data offers an inexpensive way for this.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Retrieve, clean, and process data in SQL and Stata
- Maintain the data and resolve errors in the extraction and data cleaning process
- Assist in drafting, reviewing and revising documentation related to the data
- Research assistance (analyse existing data, surveys, reports, technical journals and media)
- Actively participate in meetings related to the position
- Other duties as requested by the supervisor related to the research and administrative work

Requirements

- BSc degree (economics, statistics, geoinformatics, data science or equivalent)
- Currently enrolled or clear intention to enrol for an MSc degree
- Excellent skills in statistical software STATA and SQL, knowledge of R and ArcGIS is an advantage
- Excellent analytical and drafting skills
- Fluent in oral and written English
- Knowledge about productivity growth, the personal income tax curve and empirical economics is an asset



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Terms

The Research Assistant will be issued a six-month consultancy contract with UNU-WIDER. The Research Assistant will receive a lump sum of USD1,000 per month to supplement living expenses while stationed in Pretoria/Johannesburg, South Africa. No extra payments for housing or living expenses will be made. Project related costs will, however, be covered by the project.

Application should include

- Short personal statement/description (max. 1 page)
- Curriculum vita (max. 2 pages)
- Diplomas

The application must be submitted electronically. Deadline for applications is **27 October 2018 at 17:00 (GMT +2)**. Interviews will be held as quickly as possible thereafter.

The position is open from **1 January 2018**, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Apply [here](#).

Further questions should be addressed to dataassistant@wider.unu.edu.



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