

Job Announcement

Position Title: **Research Associate**

Project: **National Outreach Program (NOP)**

Qualifications: **Bachelor's or Master's degree in Economics, Statistics, Computer Science, Public Policy, Business Administration, or related fields**

Posting Date: **21 August 2019**

Start Date: **15 September 2019 (Flexible)**

Location: **29-P, Gulberg II, Lahore**

The Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan seeks a qualified applicant for the position of Research Associate for the NOP Project. This is a full-time position based at the CERP office in Lahore. The Associate will contribute to research design, data collection, cleaning, and analysis. Further, this job will require collaboration with field collaborators including LUMS and Higher Education Commission. The Associate will have the opportunity to engage with leading economists from Goethe University Frankfurt and LUMS.

About CERP

The [Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan \(CERP\)](#) is a non-profit research centre in Pakistan that promotes the use of rigorous quantitative research and actively engages with policy counterparts to answer key questions in public policy. CERP was founded in 2008 by renowned Pakistani economists based at the Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School, University of Chicago, Pomona College and Lahore University of Management Sciences.

This is a demanding but exciting role, given the scope and possibilities for professional growth. CERP's project teams are small, and the amount of work we accomplish is significant. The position is challenging but rewarding – we are searching for people who are comfortable taking responsibility, can work with little supervision, and are not afraid to learn new things in order to get the job done. Strong inter-personal and communication skills are required in order to manage relationships with partners and field teams.

Project Description

The goal of this project is to evaluate two large higher education programmes run by LUMS and HEC. LUMS is Pakistan's leading university and to fulfil its mission of creating an environment where students from all over the country can expand their intellectual horizons, it runs a unique, large scholarship programme called the National Outreach Program (NOP). This programme was launched in 2001 with the motive to provide talented but low-income students a chance to study at LUMS on full financial aid. Since its establishment, the NOP has successfully supported more than 1100 students. We intend to evaluate this programme.

Second, we want to work with the main regulatory organisation for higher education in Pakistan – Higher Education Commission Pakistan. HEC runs a large scholarship programme to support Pakistanis to acquire higher education abroad. We intend to evaluate this programme. Both these programmes are quite special in nature and we aim not just to study labour market outcomes, but also political and social outcomes. Hence,

the research project will substantially improve our understanding of how beliefs and preferences change. To do so, we aim to use surveys, cognitive and non-cognitive skill tests and lab-in-the-field games. The data will be collected across Pakistan along with a dedicated field team, which will be led by a Field Manager.

The Principal Investigators of this project are Professor Axel Dreher (Heidelberg University), Professor Michael Kosfeld (Goethe University Frankfurt), Assistant Professor Karrar Hussain (LUMS) and Zain Chaudhry (Heidelberg University).

As this is a small team, the Principal Investigators will ensure that the Research Associate gets to work closely with all PIs, and learn from them.

Job Description and Responsibilities

The Research Associate will work with the researchers and the field team in designing data collection tools, managing databases and implement the project through a field team in collaboration with an implementation partner. The Research Associate will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Manage project databases
2. Assist development of data collection and entry tool
3. Work with researchers to repair datasets for analysis
4. Conduct initial descriptive data analysis
5. Relationship management with LUMS and HEC
6. Field activities across the country together with the field team
7. Offer support for fundraising activities through proposal writing, relationship management and data analysis
8. Other tasks as assigned by Principal Investigators

Qualifications and Skills

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Economics, Statistics, Computer Science, Public Policy, Business Administration, or related fields
- Minimum 1 year of experience in related field
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good skills in STATA
- Excellent communication skills (both oral and written)
- Excellent management and organizational skills
- Experience with development economics/data science research preferred
- Ability to work independently

How to Apply

Please follow the instructions below. Any applications or CVs submitted outside this process will not be considered. Only successful candidates will be contacted

Interested candidates should:

1. Fill out the [online form found here](#), marking NOP as your first preference
2. Send an email to careers@cerp.org.pk with the subject **“Research Team- NOP”**. Please include your cover letter and CV.