



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
**UNU-WIDER**

Vacancy

# Research intern on big data analytics (6 months)

Station: National Treasury, Pretoria, South Africa

## Background

United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), with its partners, the National Treasury, the International Food Policy Research Institute, the European Union, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the Department of Trade and Industry, the South African Revenue Service, and Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies, invites applications for the position of Research Intern.

The Research Intern will assist the Research Associate in the [Southern Africa – Towards Inclusive Economic Development](#) programme.

## About the work

The recent availability of tax administrative and other microdata 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 mobilization. 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 tax research and 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 microdata available to researchers in South Africa. Policies that promote development need to be built on reliable facts, and administrative data offers an inexpensive way to do 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

- B.Com degree with Honours (economics, statistics, geoinformatics, data science, or equivalent)
- Currently enrolled or clear intention to enrol for a Master's 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
- Possess a valid work permit for South Africa

## Terms

The Research Intern will be issued a six-month consultancy contract with UNU-WIDER. The Research Intern will receive a total of US\$7,500 for the contract period to supplement living expenses while stationed in Pretoria, 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 (max. 1 page)
- Curriculum vita (max. 2 pages)
- Degree certificate
- 200-line sample of originally written Stata code

The application must be submitted electronically. Deadline for applications is **20 October 2019 at 23:59 (GMT +3)**. Interviews will be held as quickly as possible thereafter.

Short-listed applicants must be willing to undergo a competency exercise as part of the selection process.

The position is open from **1 December 2019**, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Apply [here](#).

Further questions should be addressed to [dataassistant@wider.unu.edu](mailto:dataassistant@wider.unu.edu).