



LEAP Internship Program

3rd Call – Summer 2024

Vacancy

The Laboratory for Effective Anti-poverty Policies (LEAP) is a research centre based at Bocconi University, with the mission of reducing poverty around the world and improving the lives of the most disadvantaged populations. Our approach combines original data collection in the field, evaluation design and rigorous empirical methods, with a focus on developing countries and Italy.

This is done by combining original data collection in the field and rigorous research to be published in top tier academic journals. LEAP affiliates work in projects in different areas of the world, on topics such as agriculture, health, institutions, social norms and education, evaluating the impact of innovative interventions.

The program

After the success of the first rounds, LEAP has now launched the third Call for Applications for its flagship Internship Program, dedicated to enthusiastic and motivated Bocconi students who wish to gain first-hand experience in developing cutting-edge empirical research. A total of ten positions will be available for this second edition of the program.

The selected interns will have the opportunity to work with faculty affiliated with LEAP on several projects and will take on substantial responsibilities in program design, implementation, monitoring, research, and evaluation. Candidates will be asked to include in their application up to three research areas of interests, and they will be matched to the most suitable opportunity available. Examples of ongoing projects include RCT on gender norms in India, on female genital cutting in Burkina Faso, on the impact of gender stereotypes on education in Italy.

The position is open to current Bocconi students and only unpaid curricular internships (with credit recognition) will be offered. Depending on the project and on specific country security circumstances, the position can be based in the country where the project is implemented. Working arrangements shall be discussed with the selected candidate, in light of the Bocconi Travel Policy.

Students enrolled to this program cannot simultaneously spend a semester or a year abroad in one of Bocconi's exchange or double-degree programs.

Tasks and Responsibilities

The selected applicant should be enthusiastic about research and motivated to apply their strong analytical and writing skills to development. Responsibilities will include data cleaning and econometric analysis, as well as assisting with data collection activities, designing survey instruments, preparing training materials for surveys, and conducting literature reviews.

The main duties and responsibilities of the intern will include:

1. Participate in data collection activities, such as:
 - a. Contribute to the design of quantitative survey instruments.
 - b. Work on the programming of the survey instruments on data collection software (for example, using SurveyCTO and Survey Solution)
 - c. Manage fieldwork activities, including enumerators training and field monitoring, to ensure maximum data quality.
 - d. Manage and organise the data coming in from the field to the central server using STATA.
2. Support data cleaning and data management activities and assist the research team in data analysis as needed using STATA and LaTeX.
3. Contribute to report writing on the progress of fieldwork. Prepare literature reviews, background research, and other draft content for grant proposals, academic papers, project reports.
4. Other research tasks assigned by the tutor responsible for the internship

Experience and Background

We are seeking enthusiastic students passionate about topics in development economics. We will consider applicants with the following requirements:

- Being a current student in a Bocconi MSc course.
- Good knowledge of quantitative methods and econometric models
- Good command of STATA and Microsoft Office. Knowledge of SurveyCTO and LaTeX is preferred
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Excellent analytical and social skills
- Organizational skills and high attention to detail.

Compensation

Only unpaid curricular internships will be offered

Value of the internship for students

The LEAP Internship Program will provide students with an invaluable insight on research in development economics, offering a deep understanding of career pathways in research (i.e., fieldwork careers, PhDs and others). By taking part to the program, the selected applicant will gain:

- First-hand managerial experience of how RCTs are concretely carried out in the field of development economics;
- Application of many theoretical concepts learnt in class to reality (attrition, spillovers, internal validity, randomization are just few examples of issues we deal with often);
- Training in the use of STATA and other survey software (Survey CTO, Survey Solutions, Qualtrics);
- Understanding of what type of career pathways are offered in the field of development economics such as research PhD areas and fieldwork careers
- Contact with a different culture.

Timing and selection process

The length of the internship will depend on the specific opportunities. Curricular internships based in the field – in Italy or abroad – need to be 9 weeks long. If the internship is based at Bocconi University (i.e., progetto sul campo), it needs to be at least 11 weeks long.

The dates are flexible and needs to be agreed with the responsible for the opportunity. Internships will be carried out indicatively from early July 2024.

Upon closure of the application window, all applications will be carefully reviewed. A short-list of candidates will be selected and matched to one of the available opportunities, based on their experience and interests outlined in the application statement. Candidates will be invited to complete a short STATA test, to assess their knowledge of the software.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview. Selected candidates will be notified in writing.

How to apply

The deadline to submit your applications is **May, 27th 2024**. We will not consider any application submitted after the deadline.

To apply, please fill in the dedicated form on the LEAP website. You will need to upload:

- One-page CV
- One-page cover letter (one-page max) Cover letter outlining:
 - Interest in position
 - Preferred research fields

If you have any questions on the program, please write an email to LEAP@unibocconi.it