

INSPIRE Internship Program

Summer 2026 - Vacancy

The Invernizzi Center for Social Policy Impact Research and Evaluation (INSPIRE) is a research center at Bocconi University dedicated to understanding what works in social policy — and produces rigorous, policy-relevant evidence to help governments, institutions, and organizations design and scale interventions that improve people’s lives. By combining causal impact evaluation with big data and artificial intelligence, the Center moves beyond average effects to understand who benefits, under which conditions, and at what scale.

Our work spans diverse institutional and geographic contexts, with a globally-informed perspective. INSPIRE focuses on several key areas of social policy, conducted by three research units:

- **LEAP** – aiming at reducing poverty around the world through the design, the analysis and the dissemination of effective anti-poverty programs, in order to offer reliable solutions to policy-makers, seeking to improve the lives of the poor. both in Italy and in low-middle income countries
- **CLEAN** – investigating criminal behavior employing detailed data and frontier quantitative methods. The unit is particularly interested in the activity of criminal organizations pursuing complex illicit businesses such as drug trafficking, corruption, and money laundering.
- **ABLE** – investigating how disability shapes the lives of individuals and their families, with the aim of generating rigorous evidence for more effective and inclusive social policy.

The program

The INSPIRE Internship Program is dedicated to enthusiastic and motivated Bocconi students who wish to gain first-hand experience in developing cutting-edge empirical research.

The selected interns will have the opportunity to work with faculty affiliated with INSPIRE 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.

The position is open to current Bocconi students and only unpaid curricular internships (with credit recognition) will be offered. Working arrangements shall be discussed with the selected candidate, considering 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. Participating in data collection activities, such as:
 - a. Contributing to the design of quantitative survey instruments.

- b. Working on the programming of the survey instruments on data collection software (for example, using SurveyCTO and Survey Solution)
 - c. Managing fieldwork activities, including enumerators training and field monitoring, to ensure maximum data quality.
 - d. Managing and organising the data coming in from the field to the central server using STATA.
2. Supporting data cleaning and data management activities and assisting the research team in data analysis as needed using STATA and LaTeX.
 3. Contributing to report writing on the progress of fieldwork. Preparing 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:

- 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.

To be eligible, candidates need to:

- Being a current student in a Bocconi MSc
- Students enrolled to this program cannot simultaneously spend a semester or a year abroad in one of Bocconi's exchange or double-degree programs.
- Students who already completed a curricular internship during their MSc are not eligible for this opportunity.

Compensation

Only unpaid curricular internships will be offered

Value of the internship for students

The INSPIRE 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 experience of how research projects are conducted in the field of applied economics.
- Application of many theoretical concepts learnt in class to reality (attrition, spillovers, internal validity, randomization are just a few examples of issues we often deal with).
- 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 applied economics such as research PhD areas and fieldwork careers.

Timing and selection process

Internships will be based at Bocconi University (i.e., progetto sul campo), and the minimum length of the opportunity will be at least 11 weeks, with the possibility of extension up to six months.

The dates are flexible and needs to be agreed with the responsible for the opportunity. Internships will be carried out indicatively from July 2026.

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, 2026**. We will not consider any application submitted after the deadline.

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

- One-page CV, including:
 - A list of MSc courses attended, with corresponding grades
 - Details on any remaining exams required for graduation (please specify which ones)
- One-page cover letter, outlining:
 - Your motivation and interest in the position
 - Your preferred research fields, the INSPIRE Faculty Affiliate you wish to work with (if any), and your preference for a policy- or research-oriented experience.
- Detailed transcripts

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