Università Commerciale
Luigi Bocconi

LEAP
**Laboratory for Effective
Anti-poverty Policies**

Via Röntgen 1
20136 Milan

tel +39 025836.2591
e-mail: leap@unibocconi.it

LEAP Internship Program

Winter 2026 - 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

The LEAP 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 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. Working arrangements shall be discussed with the selected candidate, considering the Bocconi Travel Policy. A limited number of policy-oriented internship positions will also be available in collaboration with multilateral institutions. Candidates interested in these opportunities may indicate their interest during the application process.

While the Summer round is open to all MSc students, for the Winter edition only second year students are eligible to apply. First year MSc students who are interested in this opportunity, are invited to apply to the Summer round, expected to open in May 2026.

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:

- Being a current student in a Bocconi MSc
- 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 conducted in the field of development economics.
- Application of many theoretical concepts learnt in class to reality (attrition, spillovers, internal validity, randomization are just a 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 at least 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 February 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 **December 5th, 2025**. 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, 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 LEAP Faculty Affiliate you wish to work with (if any), and your preference for a policy- or research-oriented experience.

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