



Cape Town Utilities Graduate Student Researcher

Summer 2022

Project Background

Kelsey Jack (UCSB), Jeffrey Cross (Hamilton College / UCSB alum) and Anders Jensen (Harvard) are working with the municipality of Cape Town to evaluate their local tax and utilities programs (water and electricity). They are looking for a full-time summer Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) to help with the empirical analysis. The GSR will help with cleaning and harmonizing large administrative datasets, stored remotely. The GSR will also contribute to the empirical evaluation, both by helping with the research designs and by implementing the regression models (including event studies, difference-in-differences and instrumental variables). The project is highly policy-relevant: the utilities programs have become prominent in Cape Town's policy debates, and the local government counterparts have asked for initial research findings.

Responsibilities

The successful candidate will work directly with the faculty leads and will be responsible for:

- Performing quantitative data tasks, including data cleaning and dataset construction for data related to water, energy use and taxes in South Africa.
- Performing data analysis and construction of data visualizations using Stata and R using household-level panel datasets. Run scripts remotely using the UCSB server, on data already obtained by the PI.
- Presenting progress to direct supervisor and/or to broader project team members as needed. This includes oral updates as well as regular written updates or slide deck presentations of results and work in progress.

Basic qualifications

- Must currently be enrolled in a graduate level program at UCSB.
- Must be interested in public finance, development and/or energy and environmental economics.

Desired qualifications

- Training in economics or related disciplines.
- Demonstrated experience working with large panel datasets.
- Demonstrated experience managing and manipulating data stored on a remote server.
- High proficiency with Stata and/or R, and experience working with GitHub or other version control systems.
- Familiarity with program evaluation methods including difference in difference, instrumental variables and event studies.
- Excellent organizational and communication skills.

- Self-motivated and positive working attitude.

Special consideration will be given to candidates that enhance diversity in the environmental sciences.

emLab is committed to sustaining an equitable and inclusive workplace and to the goal of reflecting the rich diversity of our campus community within our staff. We encourage applications from students of all backgrounds and majors. We strive to create an adaptive, supportive environment, especially during circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, this position can be remote.

How to apply

Please send Jennifer Bone (jebone@ucsb.edu) a CV and an email describing your interest in this position and outlining your relevant expertise by May 5th, 2022.

This position is for a 100% summer quarter GSR. GSR level and pay will be commensurate with experience.