

Terms of reference for the recruitment of interns to support the Gender at the Center initiative (GCI) and the Research & Development (R&D)-Dakar work

Presentation

With more than 50 years of experience developing the capacity of member states, IIEP-UNESCO is the only specialized organization with the mandate to support education policy, planning and management in the UN system. IIEP's Africa office (IIEP Dakar) contributes to this mission by producing rigorous analysis and data-driven evidence, developing cutting-edge analytical tools, and delivering technical assistance to identify, facilitate and promote the adoption of effective solutions to Africa's most pressing education challenges.

Through its Research and Development program (R&D), IIEP-UNESCO Dakar is actively involved in the curation, generation, refinement, and expansion of bodies of knowledge for the strengthening of education decision and policy making in Africa.

At the backbone of its strategy and commitment to reducing inequalities in education, IIEP Dakar ensures the technical lead of the Gender at the Centre Initiative – GCI. Launched in 2019 at the G7 Summit, the GCI aims to strengthen the gender mainstreaming capacities of education system stakeholders and support the development of resources to achieve gender equality in and through education. The initiative is currently being developed in eight pilot countries in sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Chad) and seeks to expand to other countries in the region.

GCI and R&D-Dakar are recruiting one or more interns to support several projects, including: Girls' School Dropout, and Women in Learning Leadership (WiLL), as well as to provide general R&D support.

Context, projects, and activities

The GCI and R&D Dakar portfolio of work includes the following projects:

The **Girls' School Dropout** project is dedicated to addressing the factors contributing to girls' school dropout in Sierra Leone through evidence-based policy making. The objective is to contribute to the generation of evidence on the evolution of girls' school dropout in Sierra Leone with a focus on addressing Covid-induced education disruption and supporting post-Covid learning recovery and girls' school reentry/reenrollment. The project will identify relevant policy strategies and data resources that shape and document, respectively, the evolution of girls' school dropout over the past eight years in the country, undertake an in-depth analysis of the relevance and coherence of the public policy tools, and develop recommendations for strengthening the country's response mechanisms to the girls' dropout phenomenon. A similar project is under development in Mozambique.

The project **Women in Learning Leadership (WiLL)**, in partnership with UNICEF Office of Research Innocenti, aims to generate solid evidence on women's school management and leadership in low- and middle-income countries. Combining quantitative and qualitative methods, the research will focus on examining the opportunities and challenges concerning female school leaders, the promising interventions to advance women's school leadership, and the distinctive school leadership and management practices

women adopt. It will also support the design and implementation of measures to strengthen the impact of school management and leadership best practices on children's education opportunities, learning, and well-being. After conducting global and multi-country analysis, WiLL is currently implementing country-level work in 3 pilot countries: Benin, Chad and Madagascar.

The intern(s) will also provide **R&D general support** through tasks related to the organization and coordination of IIEP-UNESCO Dakar research and data analysis projects and activities. This includes: participating in the organization of the R&D teamwork (e.g., organizing documents and folders, identifying relevant work management tools); sourcing information, conducting literature research and literature reviews; contributing to the preparation and quality assurance of research reports, policy briefs, articles, and similar outputs; assisting in the organization of meetings (including any necessary materials for such meetings) and preparing minutes of meetings when required; performing other tasks as may be requested by IIEP Dakar's R&D Manager and team members.

Description of work and activities

Under the direct supervision and guidelines of IIEP's GCI and Dakar-R&D Programme Managers, the consultants in charge of coordinating the projects, and the overall supervision of IIEP Dakar's Head and Deputy Head of Office, the intern will be responsible for the following activities:

- Assist with the preparation of literature reviews;
- Identify, summarize and describe good practices in education and training policies;
- Draft briefs, policy notes, and executive summaries;
- Extract indicators from international and national databases (e.g., ILOSTAT, World Bank);
- Analyse data using statistical software (e.g., STATA);
- Prepare charts, figures, and tables for the analysis;
- Contribute to the identification of key messages emerging from the data;
- Assist with the development of policy questionnaires and tools for data collection;
- Contribute to disseminating key findings, for instance through presentations and other communication material.

Time frame

The internships can start as soon as possible (a first intern is sought for the first quarter of 2023) or throughout 2023 and will last 3 - 6 months.

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- Be at least 20 years old to apply.

AND:

- Be currently enrolled in a graduate programme (Master's degree, PhD, or equivalent, second university degree or higher).

OR

- Have graduated with a Master's degree or PhD (or second degree as defined above), no more than 12 months prior to the start of the internship.

Required qualifications

- Advanced university degree (Masters or equivalent) in education, gender, economics, social sciences, or related fields.
- Demonstrated professional experience in quantitative research and report writing in education and/or skills for work and labour market. Professional experience at the international level is an asset.
- Good knowledge of education and/or labour market issues in Africa.
- Demonstrated prior knowledge and experience on gender issues in Africa.
- Excellent proficiency (written and oral) in English or French. Written and oral proficiency in Portuguese is an advantage.
- Proficiency in the use of the MS Office package (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Proficiency in the use of a statistical software is desirable (e.g., STATA, R).

Application and selection process

Interested candidates should submit their CV to Dakar.r&d@iiep.unesco.org, including the word INTERNSHIP in the email subject and specifying their availability dates. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and a first set of applications will be assessed for an internship in the first quarter of 2023. Candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.