Oluwatosin Olawale Olowookere

✉ olowookereolawale1993@gmail.com | in LinkedIn Profile | ⌂ GitHub: Olowookere-O-O
📞 (+49) 15781866738 | 📍 Hirschberger Str. 60 (Zi. 42-422), 53119 Bonn, Germany

Hiring Manager,
Center for International Development (CID), Havard Kennedy School,
Cambridge, MA 02138,
United States (US).   February 20, 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Application for Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship

I am writing to express my interest in the Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) initiative at the Harvard Kennedy Center for International Development (CID). As a highly motivated graduate student of social protection, with a strong passion for evidence-driven global development, and experience from previous evaluation research assistant positions, I am confident that I have the necessary skills to excel in this role.

In addition to my track record of academic excellence, my academic background, including my current study, "M.Sc. in Design and Analysis of Social Protection Systems", has enriched my understanding of the intricacies and intersectionality of global development, particularly concerning poverty and vulnerability. Courses in quantitative methods and impact evaluation, such as Econometrics and Statistics, have equipped me with the fundamentals of causal inference and effect estimations. This academic journey culminates in my Master's thesis on "Assessing the effectiveness of foreign aid on health outcomes: An empirical analysis of Sub-Saharan (SSA) and non-SSA regions". The thesis adopts fresh insights in the discourse on foreign aid effectiveness by broadening the concept of health, proxy by six composite health dimensions while also exploring the mechanistic impact of social protection in the effect. This thesis not only showcases my adeptness in applying advanced econometric methodologies, including fixed effect cross-lag panel models, two-way fixed effects, and mediation path analysis but also underscores my commitment to addressing critical issues in global development.

My extensive experience in evaluation research, including internships at the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval) and my current roles, has further honed my skills in both qualitative and quantitative research. At DEval, I collaborated on projects assessing the impact of climate aid on greenhouse gas emission reduction, utilizing large panel datasets analyzed using R-programming. Concurrently, working on the rigorous impact evaluation project "Evaluation of the Social Protection and Health Initiative (SPHI) in Pakistan" at HBRS University, I engaged in designing measurement instruments, pre-analysis and transformation of large survey data, using Stata. These experiences have not only enhanced my technical skills in policy research and data analysis (R, Stata, MAXQDA, LaTeX) but also honed my ability to work both independently and collaboratively in dynamic environments.

The EPoD Pre-Doctoral Fellowship at the CID presents me with an unparalleled opportunity to further augment my expertise and bridge the gap between academic rigor and real-world impact. The fellowship's focus on impact evaluation aligns seamlessly with my career aspirations, especially my plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Development Economics. Drawing on my social protection background, I am particularly keen to work with Prof. Hana on social protections, public services, and tax administration related projects. As a self-driven and resilient person, I am convinced that my outstanding academic qualifications, coupled with well-honed research skills and prior experiences living in an LMIC country, uniquely position me as a valuable asset to the EPoD research team and the overall Harvard mission globally. I very much welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications in more detail.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
Oluwatosin Olawale Olowookere.