

COVER LETTER

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Bank of Canada

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the Senior Economist position. I am a PhD candidate in Economics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, from where I expect to graduate in July 2023. My primary field of research is International Economics, with a particular focus on International Trade and Applied Econometrics.

My recent work studies how endogenous trade policy decisions affect trade, welfare, and firm behavior. My job market paper studies the effects of preferential trade agreements on trade between their members. I use tools from causal inference framework to address selection bias and obtain credible partial equilibrium estimates. I combine the empirical estimates with a general equilibrium model to study the distributional effects of agreement formation on trade and welfare. My current work also investigates the effects of trade agreements on firms' trade, and the differences in firm behavior across types of destination markets. Another line of work collects a comprehensive dataset of the characteristics of trade agreements and investigates the impact of different agreement features on trade.

I have considerable experience in policy work and consulting. Prior to the PhD, I served as a policy analyst and trade negotiator assisting the Russian delegation at various international meetings. As a short-term consultant, I contributed to multiple research projects for the European Commission, the Government of Canada, and EuropeAid. I have participated in UNCTAD conferences, and have a number of policy-relevant publications ([link](#)).

At the Bank of Canada, the excellent policy work is based on solid and thorough research, and I believe I would greatly enjoy working along the excellent team at the Bank of Canada. I would be striving to contribute to your research and policy work.

Please find attached my CV, Job Market Paper, and the required additional materials for your review. Letters of recommendation will be available in the requested form.

I will be available for interview at the EEA and at the ASSA meetings, or at other time convenient for you. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Ptashkina