

December 31, 2013.

I would like to visit your offices in January to discuss working for you as a research analyst. I learned about GiveWell from a friend at the end of 2009. What strikes me as impressive, apart from your focus on strength of evidence, are your regular self-evaluations and cataloguing of your own mistakes. These actions seem crucial for an organisation that is striving for efficiency.

As my resume indicates, I have limited experience in non-profits compared with academic pursuits. My discussions with members of various human rights groups and non-profits — Amnesty International (London), B'Tselem (Jerusalem), EqualEducation (South Africa), Anani Memorial International School (Accra) — have led me to decide to apply my analytical and writing skills towards a cause with positive consequences for others.

As a research analyst for GiveWell I can offer the following qualities I've cultivated in my academic career:

1. As a researcher I identify feasible problems, and break them down until each part is well understood. This process sometimes involves questioning ideas that might be otherwise taken for granted.
2. I take pride in my writing — I aim for readability and relevance. I have written a number of survey articles of my field, each for a different audience, and am assisting with the editing of a technical handbook. I enjoy finding good ways to communicate difficult ideas.
3. I enjoy working with bright people who are passionate about similar things. I have a number of collaborators around the world and successfully supervised a number of undergraduate projects.

The main purpose of the visit, on my side, would be for me to get a clearer idea of what it is like to work for GiveWell, and to learn to what extent I can contribute to the work of researching and recommending charities.

I am travelling from Vienna (my current base) to California for a conference in January. I will be in San Francisco between January 13 and January 17, and then again on January 29 and January 30. I would be glad if I could visit you during those times.

sincerely,

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