**Wheeler Institute for Business and Development: Internship**

A unique opportunity to support applied research into *how* and *why* technology-based solutions can help solve some of the world’s major development challenges (from energy access to clean water to health related services). This is a collaboration between the Wheeler Institute and FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office), formerly DFID (UK Governments Department for International Development) with the ultimate aim of advancing the understanding of how technology-based businesses and solutions can best scale in emerging economies.

**Location:** For the immediate future, remote working.
**No. of positions:** Up to two
**Length of Internship:** 6 months (up to 20 hours per week)
**Project start date:** Anticipated w/c 2 November 2020

- This opportunity is open to all current LBS students of our programmes.
- **Requirement:** interest in the wider development agenda; strong analytical skills, report-writing, data analysis skills.
- **Preferred:** ideally some background or knowledge of technology-based business model; experience or strong interest in emerging markets.
- Data engineering and data visualisation skills; experience designing and managing surveys – this would be an advantage but is not an essential requirement.

**Institute overview**

The Wheeler Institute for Business and Development (Wheeler Institute) was created to research and amplify the role of business in tackling some of the hardest challenges in social and economic development.

The Wheeler Institute aims to improve lives through identifying what needs to change; identifying, linking and applying relevant business research and expertise; and through accelerating the adoption and scaling of solutions. We facilitate collaboration between business, policy makers, and researchers in identifying and promoting solutions. We engage our students as sources of inspiration in identifying solutions and as long-term agents of change in implementing those solutions.

The Wheeler Institute believes that not only can it play a role - but that it has a responsibility - in ensuring the next generation of business leaders are ethical and able to lead growth in complex and wide-ranging environments. As a key pillar of its work, the Wheeler Institute endeavours to inform and enhance both curricular and non-curricular components of the degree programme offering at LBS, and by highlighting the benefits of these initiatives for the personal and professional development of our students.

**About this internship**

The Wheeler Institute is collaborating with FCDO (previously DFID) on a research project to better understand the factors which contribute toward or inhibit the scaling of digital FinTech companies in Sub-Saharan Africa. The FinTech sector has been growing rapidly across the continent and offers exciting opportunities for reaching hundreds of millions of end consumers with a range of financial services. Nevertheless, this remains an under-researched field and the Wheeler Institute intends to provide notable insights which can influence investors, business leaders and policy makers.

The LBS project team kicked off this work in Q2 and is looking to grow the team. Dr Nick Hughes, Executive Fellow at the Wheeler Institute, is leading this collaboration; with Professor Rajesh Chandy providing the academic guidance. Dr Hughes brings over 20 years’ experience as a practitioner in building digital solutions that have reached tens of millions of people on low income (M-PESA, bKash, M-KOPA).

This is a unique opportunity for you to complete the fundamental information gathering from the case studies and to work under the guidance of Dr Hughes and Professor Chandy.

The project team has adopted a mixed methodology approach to tackling this research challenge, combining both quantitative and qualitative analyses. Interviews with many sectoral experts and business leaders have enabled us to develop a set of hypotheses about the factors that require greater scrutiny. Currently the project team are establishing an original dataset of key information on 100s of fintech businesses in Africa which will enable the project team to test some of these hypotheses in a quantitative way.
Based on the data collected, the project team are developing their own scale index which will allow them to compare the success of different companies within their respective segments of the FinTech sector. By ensuring they have a large and robust sample set of companies, they expect to derive insights which will contribute to the growing discussion on this topic.

Ultimately, we envisage delivering a number of complementary outputs – publications on our research insights, launching and analysing a survey of leaders in the FinTech sector, and building a curated, open-sourced database where investors, business leaders and policy makers can access a range of key data related to this topic.

**Internship features**

- Paid internship.
- Flexible timing and hours
- Remote working
- An opportunity to work with leading practitioners in the tech and emerging markets space.

**Deliverables**

Work within a 3-4 person project team to:

- Construct database of Fintech companies.
- Develop Scale Index based on Fintech database.
- Develop partnerships with key institutions to support data gathering and survey – investors and policy makers in tech hubs.
- Launch and manage a business leader survey. Analyse results and derive insights.
- Develop and launch open-sourced, curated, online database to share insights with audience.

**Application timeline**

- Applications are now open and will close on Tuesday 20 October, 2020 (23:59).
- Potential candidates will be invited for an interview w/c 26 October, 2020. (tbc)
- Anticipated start date Monday 02 November, 2020.

**Application process and guideline**

Applicants should apply with a CV and a cover letter. This should address:

- Your motivation to be involved in this project.
- Demonstrated skills of data analysis and report-writing.
- Prior training and/or work experience in data analysis, report writing and/or data visualisation.

Applicants should address their cover letter to Dr Hughes and submit their CV & cover letter to WIBDimpact@london.edu. In the subject line of the email, please include – Wheeler Institute Internship Application + last name.

**How your application will be assessed**

Your application will be assessed using both your cover letter and your CV, on:

1) How well you are able to articulate your motivation.
2) How relevant your skills, experience and knowledge are to this internship.

**Stay updated:**

If you would like to receive, updates about future Wheeler Institute opportunities including:

- Internships, then please register your interest [here](#).
- Global IMPACT Projects, then please register your interest [here](#).
- Development Impact Platform, then please register your interest [here](#).

or contact the Wheeler Institute team at wheelerinstitute@london.edu.

**Stay in touch:**

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