



SARChI
SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH
CHAIR IN INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT



Job description:

Researcher, African Trade and Industrialisation Observatory (ATIO)

Background:

The DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Industrial Development (SARChI-ID) at the University of Johannesburg and the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance (NMSPG) at the University of Cape Town are partnering in establishing the African Trade and Industrialisation Observatory (ATIO). ATIO will be a portal for quantitative data, policy documents and research papers on trade and industrialisation in Africa. In its initial phase, ATIO is envisaged as a gateway to secondary data and research. ATIO will be open access and is intended to be of benefit to policymakers, researchers and students. ATIO will be launched and available for public use towards the end of 2022.

We are seeking to hire a Researcher, who will play a central role in the establishment of ATIO. This presents an opportunity to contribute to this exciting new initiative.

This provisional job description sets out the envisaged key roles of the Researcher, which would be finalised on appointment of the successful candidate. The Researcher will be hired for an initial three months, with a possibility of renewal (such renewal may be on a part-time basis). There are no geographical restrictions on where the Researcher is based. The Researcher will work with a website developer, so the role does not involve the technical aspects of website development. While it is preferred that the role be full-time, applications will be considered from excellent candidates who are available on a basis between 50-100%. The successful candidate will start as soon as possible. A market-related salary will be offered, commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

Key roles:

- Conducting a survey of related existing observatories, portals and repositories.
- Identifying relevant indicators and data sources, and sourcing data.
- Organising and categorising data.
- Undertaking basic data manipulation.

- Liaising with data 'owners' where necessary to enable access.
- Working closely with a website developer on the portal (including on facilities for user manipulation and visualisation of quantitative data where possible).
- Undertaking literature searches and identifying, sourcing and organising literature relevant to include in the repository, including academic and 'grey' literature.
- Identifying, sourcing and organising relevant policy documents to include in the repository.

Key attributes and requirements:

- The ability to work independently with minimal supervision.
- The ability to take initiative and problem solve.
- The ability to work quickly under pressure, manage time efficiently, and deliver against deadlines.
- Attention to detail.
- Familiarity with key data sources on trade and industrialisation in Africa, and the ability to pro-actively seek out additional relevant data.
- While this role will not involve complex quantitative analysis, skills in carefully working with data and with data manipulation and calculations will be needed.
- Familiarity with the literature, key debates, and institutions relating to trade and industrialisation in Africa.
- The ability to conduct literature searches, of both academic and 'grey' literature, and to source relevant policy documents.
- Experience with data visualisation would be a strong recommendation.
- Experience with websites, repositories or data portals would be a strong recommendation.
- The ability to communicate with a diverse range of people and institutions in a professional manner.
- At least a Master's degree, in economics or a cognate discipline.

To apply:

Please send the following documents to sarchiid@uj.ac.za:

- CV;
- All university transcripts and certificates;
- Copy of ID/passport;
- A cover letter explaining why you are applying, and providing information on your availability for the role (at present and for the remainder of 2022);
- The details of three professional references.

The strict closing date for applications is 18 May 2022, and interviews will be held virtually soon thereafter.