

Terms of Reference

ITC Internship programme

Division: **Division of Market Development**

Section: **Chief Economist & Export Strategy**

Name of supervisor: **Mr. Alberto AMURGO**

Duration: **6 months**

Background

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint technical agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations and has a special mandate to promote economic growth in developing countries by helping small and medium-sized companies to export more. Its Chief Economist & Export Strategy (CEES) Section provides technical assistance and supporting tools in the design, implementation and monitoring of national, sector and regional export strategies.

CEES is in the process of upgrading part of its analytical methodology for export strategy design, implementation and monitoring. This includes developing a global database of export strategies, a methodology to assess country needs on trade-related issues and export competitiveness.

This internship offers a suitable candidate the chance to gain a deep understanding of the different types of export strategies that countries commonly use to promote exports as well as the different tools and materials that ITC uses to design export strategies. In particular, the intern will focus on the background research required to complete one or more of the above-mentioned projects. In addition, the candidate will have the opportunity to engage in some applied research and contribute to the process of drafting the revised materials of the export strategy methodology.

Duties and responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of an ES staff member, the intern will undertake the following tasks:

- Assist in the conceptualization of new analytical and decision-making tools for areas of export strategy with an important analytical dimension;
- Develop a semi-automated method to obtain information to populate the Trade Strategy Map (TSM) database. This will involve taking responsibility for analysing ITC's National Export Strategy (NES), and the trade components of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), Diagnostic Trade Integration Studies (DTIS), Trade and Transport Facilitations Assessment (TTFA), National Action Plans, and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) among others;
- Develop a neural network model to analyze patterns of international trade;
- Design web crawling programmes for collecting information on e-commerce policies and strategies;

- Assist on other activities of a similar nature as required.

Qualifications:

The successful internship candidate should have:

- Ability to conduct research in English.
- Interest in international trade issues and advanced knowledge on statistics and advanced quantitative methods.
- Excellent knowledge of R, and Python programming languages. Familiarity with non-structured databases and/or other object oriented programming languages like Julia or Java will be considered important assets.
- Experience gathering data, planning information research, as well as analysing and organising the results in logical categories.
- Have a relevant academic background in IT, programming, statistics, math, data science, or international economics with experience conducting research or data gathering assignments.
- Be competent using standard office and research tools.