

Growth Lab Postdoctoral Research Fellow

The Center for International Development at Harvard University (CID) is recognized as a global leader in research to advance economic growth, social progress and governance reform in the developing world by expanding the understanding of development challenges and offering viable solutions to achieving global shared prosperity. CID has consistently been named one of the top ten global think tanks in international development.



Position Summary

The Growth Lab is currently seeking a Postdoctoral researcher to join its team. The Growth Lab, an academic research program that consists of a dynamic, cross-disciplinary group of researchers, works to understand economic growth and structural transformation from the perspective that these phenomena are functions of the acquisition and diffusion of productive capabilities. This has led to questions such as: What are natural development paths for countries and regions? What are the vectors along which technologies diffuse throughout the national or global economy? How does complex knowledge get organized to produce sophisticated products? What is the role of cities therein? The Growth Lab approaches these questions in team-based efforts, bringing together an interdisciplinary team of researchers with backgrounds in economics, economic geography, mathematics, physics, computer science and related fields. Its team of Postdoctoral researchers and visiting scholars aims to produce high-quality academic papers that are typically team-based, cross-disciplinary and multi-authored. Topics range from regional and international growth and innovation, to the workings of urban economies, the role of human capital and knowhow in development and the role of FDI and migration in the diffusion of knowhow. The Growth Lab aims to apply the understanding gained from this research agenda in real-world engagements (for current examples, see <https://growthlab.cid.harvard.edu>). The Postdoctoral researcher will be given the opportunity to participate in these policy-oriented engagements.

Position Responsibilities

- Conduct research related to the Growth Lab's research agenda in collaboration with the other members of the Growth Lab intended for publication in top ranking academic journals;
- Comment on, discuss and support research conducted by other members of the Growth Lab and its visiting scholars;
- Attend and help organize weekly seminars, research meetings and other research-related activities;
- Collaborate with, participate in and advise the Growth Lab's policy-oriented teams to translate research findings into policy actions; Help write research proposals and reports to funding agencies;
- Help the Growth Lab reach out to the wider academic and policy community by presenting research results at international, national and local workshops, conferences and other meetings.

Required Qualifications

- PhD in Economics, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Data Science or related disciplines
- Familiarity and affinity with the CID Growth Lab's work on economic growth
- Strong quantitative skills; ability to use Stata, Python, GIS, Matlab, R or other data analysis software
- Ability to work with large and/or unstructured data
- Fluency and excellent communication skills in English, including ability to present research and recommendations to senior officials and researchers
- Proven ability to write reports and academic papers

Specific Assignment

The current Postdoctoral researcher position is a one-year assignment (with a possibility of extension) that focuses on mapping and understanding the economic structure of the world economy at the level of individual cities. To this end, the candidate will gather, harmonize, analyze and visualize relevant data in collaboration with a cross-disciplinary team composed of other members of the Growth Lab. For more information on this assignment, please contact [Andrea Hayes](#).

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, a CV, a list of three references and copies of relevant publications (ideally no more than 2 papers) to cid_recruiting@hks.harvard.edu with the subject line: Growth Lab Postdoctoral Fellowship Enquiry.

Applications will be accepted until December 3, 2018. The position begins January 2019. This is a paid position with postdoctoral benefits.