



Job title	Field-Based Research Associate
Division	Social Sciences
Department	CSAE, Dept. Economics
Location	Blantyre, Malawi
Grade and Salary	1500-2500 USD per month (commensurate with experience)
Hours	Full-time
Contract type	10 month contract from February to December 2026
Reporting to	Dennis Egger

Job description

The postholder will join Associate Professor [Dennis Egger](#) and the Oxford Centre for Macro-Experimental Development. The group focuses on combining large-scale randomized controlled trials with more structural approaches to economics to better understand the challenges and impacts of large-scale development interventions. The research agenda will initially focus on the macroeconomic, health, political, and general equilibrium effects of cash transfers and social protection policies in Malawi. The group works in partnership with the local government and the NGO [GiveDirectly](#).

The postholder will work as a **Field-Based Research Associate** on several large-scale research projects, with a primary focus on the ongoing cash transfer project in Chiradzulu District, Malawi. They will be based in Malawi and serve as the group's primary point of contact on the ground. In this role, they will engage regularly with principal investigators, postdoctoral and doctoral students, and other pre-doctoral fellows in the group. The postholder will be involved in all aspects of the research process, including fieldwork planning, enumerator training, survey instrument design, oversight of data quality checks, data cleaning and analysis, and data visualization. Given the Malawi-based location, the postholder will also play a key role in initiating and maintaining relationships with key project stakeholders, including GiveDirectly, the survey firm, government partners, and the University of Malawi.

The role will be based in Blantyre, Malawi, and will involve travel for fieldwork, workshops and policy engagement. CSAE and the research group will provide financial support and resources to assist with role-related travel.

This position is ideally suited for candidates intending to pursue doctoral studies in economics or public policy. The postholder will be at the center of the largest experimental cash transfer program in the world and will gain in-depth exposure to how economic research is conducted. The role provides an excellent opportunity to develop core research skills within a well-established research team and offers valuable career exposure through involvement in the management of large-scale randomized controlled trials implemented in collaboration with governments, international organizations, and NGOs. The postholder will have the opportunity to observe and implement best practices in research conduct and to contribute to long-term research projects from inception to completion.

The post-holder would be embedded in a larger research group, learn from peers, doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows, and have access to the broader community of the [Centre for the Study of African Economies](#) [CSAE], and the [Department of Economics](#).

A successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to oversee research implementation, possess strong skills in statistics and econometrics, and show a proven capacity to take responsibility for driving projects and tasks to completion. The role requires leadership in managing field operations and teams, ensuring high-quality implementation, and maintaining effective relationships with local stakeholders and international partners. Candidates should be proactive, take ownership of their responsibilities, and see projects through to successful completion. A **master's degree in economics or a related quantitative discipline**, along with a strong interest in development economics, is essential.

Responsibilities

1. **Contribute to the design, management, and oversight fieldwork activities**, including the following tasks:
 - Support drafting, development and coding of questionnaires, SurveyCTO and interventions;
 - Set-up data collection and management systems to ensure data quality and research integrity;
 - Manage health data collection with local clinics, government partners, and liaise with health workers in Malawi;
 - Supervise data collection and data entry to ensure good data quality during both these phases
 - Build and maintain relationships with implementing partners, stakeholders and survey firms;
 - Support PIs and implementing partners in developing budgets and activity plans, and monitoring spending
 - Ensure project compliance with IRB and Oxford data collection and compliance protocol;
 - Support with IRB applications both Malawian and Oxford IRB
2. **Quantitative research assistance on specific research projects**, including the following tasks:
 - Match, clean and analyse survey data, with support and guidance from the Principal Investigator, doctoral students, and post-doctoral fellows;
 - Conduct high frequency data quality checks periodically on all the data collection rounds
 - Assist with data cleaning and preliminary data analysis;

- Conduct and present original quantitative data analysis;
- Construct and follow a coherent and structured data management system;

3. **Contribute to outreach and dissemination activities** with support from the team to maximise the impact of the team's research findings, including the following tasks:

- Conduct policy advisory work and contribute to policy briefs and working papers;
- Contribute to reports for donors deliverables;
- Depending on interest, conduct cost-effectiveness analyses of interventions to inform policy discussions;

Selection Criteria

Essential selection criteria

- Master's degree or equivalent in economics (or similar) with a quantitative focus;
- Ability to carry out independent quantitative research, including excellent skills in statistics/econometrics and programming software (STATA, R, Python);
- Demonstrable team working skills with a flexible can-do approach, self-motivation, resilience and a willingness to adapt to the changing team needs and priorities;
- Excellent organisational skills with attention to detail and accuracy;
- Ability to interpret, apply and communicate regulations and procedures;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to synthesise complex issues for a non-expert audience;
- Demonstrated ability to take responsibility for managing a project to completion (including having scoped, managed and delivered projects before, even if on a voluntary basis or as part of student activities) and maintain momentum;
- An interest in development economics and Sub-Saharan Africa

Desirable selection criteria

- Experience working in Malawi
- Fluency in Chichewa
- Previous experience in working on or supporting lab and/or field experiments;
- Previous experience working or living in developing countries;
- Experience in fieldwork budgeting and monitoring of expenditures with third party suppliers;
- Experience in project management.

Application process

Please upload a [supporting statement](#) that outlines how you meet the selection criteria in your own words, along with your CV and the details of two referees as part of your online application to apoorva.limaye@economics.ox.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is at 12 noon (UK time) on Monday 15 February 2026.