African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)

Call for Institutional Expressions of Interest: 
Instructors for a Technical Workshop on Research Methods, Proposal Writing and Presentation Skills

Background
Established in 1988, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) has grown to be a premier capacity building institution for the advancement of research and graduate training to inform economic policies in Africa. The consortium’s mandate and strategic mission is built on the basis that sustained development in Sub-Saharan Africa requires well trained, locally based professional economists. A highly integrated knowledge organization spanning research, training, and policy outreach, AERC is now a vast network of universities, policy makers, researchers, educators, and international resource persons.

The Thematic Research Programme is AERC’s longest-standing activity adopted when AERC commenced its effort to build capacity in sub-Saharan Africa. It can be described as the “learning by doing research” modality and is geared primarily towards the building of capacity of African economists and policy analysts to undertake high quality and policy-oriented economic research. Research proposals received through open calls undergo preliminary review. They are then vetted by peers during biannual research workshops while being monitored by resource persons who are drawn from Africa and beyond to provide mentorship and quality control.

The call for expression of interest
As part of the thematic research program, AERC is planning to hold a virtual technical workshop on research methods, proposal writing and presentation skills from August 21 to September 7, 2020. The technical workshop takes about 10 working days (two weeks) during which the participants learn theory and practice related to contents of the course using some econometric software to estimate and interpret the results, and make presentations to the rest of the participants. This is therefore a call for expression of interest by qualified instructors to offer the course.

Terms of reference
The terms of reference for the instructor include the following tasks:

• Prepare the workshop agenda and technical prospectus to be used in the workshop.
• Prepare relevant materials, documentations, and software for the workshop.
• Lead the discussions and provide the participants with extensive exposure to a selected number of useful issues in research methodologies, proposal writing and presentation skills where possible.
• Prepare a report on the proceedings of the workshop.
• Select (jointly with AERC) the most promising proposals (max of 6) that can be provided a revamping grant.
• Provide mentorship for these 6 proposals post the workshop to assist them in finalizing their proposals for submission to thematic research.
• Perform any other activities as mutually agreed upon between instructor and AERC.
Selection Criteria
Selection of the instructor(s) will be based on the following criteria.

- A PhD degree in Economics
- Published in refereed/peer reviewed outlets (Journal Articles, Books and Book Chapters)
- Experience in teaching at least at graduate degree level
- Experience in supervision of thesis at graduate level to successful completion
- Experience in offering similar courses
- Practical knowledge in collecting and using time series, panel and survey data
- Proficiency in use of econometric software (e.g. STATA, LIMDEP, EVIEWS etc.)
- A brief outline of what will be covered in the course
- Good command for both English and French languages will be an added advantage

Additional information
More information on the training is as follows:

1. Number of participants- about 20.
2. The participants bring their own computers/AERC provide software to all participants.
3. The full set of materials prepared for the course will be put on a CD/flash disk which participants can take with them.
4. Photocopying facilities on site are not available but can be done at the hotel business center (likely to be very expensive).
5. Daily session start from 10:00am to about 6:00pm with lunch break of about one hour and two health breaks of about 20 minutes each. This information should help in devising an appropriate break down and the components of the course for each day.
6. The instructor will provide all the practice datasets for uniformity.
7. PowerPoint projectors and white board/flipcharts will be provided.
8. Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Course will be run virtually by zoom video conferencing with Nairobi, Kenya (GMT+3) as the reference.

We would like to invite you to send your expression of interest to offer this course to AERC current and potential network researchers. To express your interest in offering the course, kindly send your CV by email to procurement@aercafrica.org and copy to research@aercafrica.org; outlining your experience in teaching the course and proficiency in use of econometric software (specifying the type of software). Your expression of interest will be evaluated by the AERC Procurement Unit and we will let you know the outcome in a period of two weeks after the deadline.

The Deadline for the submission of Expressions of Interest is July 31, 2020.