POST DOCTORAL ASSOCIATE
JOB OPENING ID 336535

JOB DESCRIPTION
The successful candidate in this position will support the use of Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA) data in the newly developed PMA Data Hub housed within the Minnesota Population Center (MPC). In this position, you will expand your critical thinking skills as they relate to health and development. You will also explore new research approaches and methodologies across a wide range of disciplines. Interests in quantitative analysis and in demographic methods with a focus on fertility/reproductive health, migration and/or population-environment interactions are central to this project. The position is focused on producing outcomes (publications and online white papers) using and applying PMA data for science and policy. Most of the research will employ data from countries in sub-Saharan Africa, so field experience, familiarity, or interest in Africa is required.

You will be housed at the Minnesota Population Center (MPC), a hub for interdisciplinary population training and research. Members include more than 200 faculty, research staff, and student affiliates from two dozen academic units across ten colleges in the University. Established in 2000 and funded by the National Institutes of Health, MPC cultivates innovative population research by providing a stimulating environment for interdisciplinary exchange, two vibrant and growing population training programs, and research support services designed to develop and nurture promising areas of new population research. Research and training at the MPC are characterized by a focus on four core substantive areas: population health and health systems; population mobility and spatial demography; reproductive and sexual health; and work, family, and time. Affiliates of the MPC benefit from co-location with the renowned IPUMS data infrastructure projects, the University of Minnesota’s Life Course Center, and the Minnesota Research Data Center (which is part of the Federal Statistical Research Data Center Network).

Diversity and inclusion are core values of our organization. We aspire to create a team that represents the diversity of our city, our region, and our world, and to create a space that encourages and embraces inclusiveness, equal opportunity, and respect. We strongly encourage women and members of under-represented groups to apply. This position is H1-B (or J-1) eligible and we are willing to provide visa sponsorship if needed.

In this position, you will work closely with Dr. Kathryn Grace and Dr. Elizabeth Heger Boyle, MPC faculty members, to develop research, publications, and training materials using PMA data.

This 100% appointment has an annual starting salary of $53,000+, depending on experience, and 20% related, independent research time related to reproductive health or related field. The initial appointment is through June 20, 2021, with continuation up to two more years based on performance and funding.
RESPONSIBILITIES

In collaboration with other members of the PMA Data Hub and under the guidance of Dr. Grace, you will be analyzing PMA data to investigate maternal, reproductive and child health outcomes across a range of countries and time periods. You will use R or Stata to link individual and family data to diverse neighborhood contextual measures over time; develop statistical code; merge and manage multilevel data sets; code and document variable construction; author and co-author manuscripts, conference papers, presentations, and scientific reports; conduct literature reviews; ensuring quality control of data and statistical code; and collaborate among a team of quantitative analysts and investigators to pursue project aims.

In addition, you will be expected to carry out substantive research in collaboration with Drs. Grace and Boyle and other project collaborators, related to the project aims and data, the products of which you will be expected to be present at academic conferences and submit for publication in peer-reviewed journals. You may be expected to supervise graduate and undergraduate students, contribute to the development of training materials, and co-lead trainings at national or international conferences.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required Qualifications

- doctoral degree in sociology, demography, geography, public health, economics, or related field
- strong quantitative analysis skills, and at least 3 years of statistical programming experience, including expertise in statistical and/or spatial analysis software (R, Stata and/or Python)
- excellent data management skills for manipulating large databases or databases with complex survey designs
- passion for and experience in advancing science and policy through quantitative analysis
- strong interest in, or familiarity with, women’s health and development in sub-Saharan African countries
- proficient English skills for academic writing
- interest in fostering an inclusive environment and appreciative of differences in the workplace

Preferred Qualifications

- substantive knowledge of and experience in research of demography in sub-Saharan Africa
- experience using longitudinal and/or spatial data
- demonstrated expertise and interest in the quantitative analysis of health survey data

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please apply directly using the University of Minnesota’s online employment system at the following link: MPC Post-Doc. Or search job opening ID 336535 on the U of MN’s job search homepage: humanresources.umn.edu/jobs. Application requirements include a recent publication or research paper, resume, and a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications. (Please highlight your technical/statistical programming and data management skills in your cover letter). Questions concerning the application process may be addressed to Mia Riza, HR & Operations Manager, at isrdi-jobs@umn.edu.

Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Our presumption is that prospective employees are eligible to work here. Criminal convictions do not automatically disqualify finalists from employment.