Proposal of Research Assistantship

MSc in Economics and Development, Università degli Studi di Firenze

SECTION 1 – KEY INFO

Research Project Title	*Labour Demand and Internal Migration in Italy*
Proposing professor	*Mauro Lanati*
Workload	*150 hours, to be recognized as B004980 Tirocinio (6 ECTS).*
Time period	*March 15, 2026 – July 15, 2026.*
Working place	☐ At the Dipartimento di Scienze per l'Economia e l'Impresa ☐ Remote x Hybrid ☐ Other (specify) _____

SECTION 2 – BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT

The project explores the impact of labour demand variations on internal emigration decisions at local level in Italy. The project relies on a unique dataset on job postings at provincial level which allows to conduct empirical analysis at a disaggregated provincial level. The project will also dig deeper on the channels through which the impact of labour demand shocks on internal mobility manifests itself: Do labour demand shocks affect local real wages which in turn attract workers from other provinces? Do workers move because of the gap in terms of employment opportunities between origin and destination?

SECTION 3 – DETAILS ABOUT THE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Objectives

After the research assistantship, the student will be able to*:*
- *Performing statistical analysis and data cleaning using Stata.*
- *Write a critical review of the scientific literature on an advanced topic.*
- *Manage and analyze a large panel dataset.*
- *Interpret and present the results of an econometric analysis in a professional manner.*

Main Tasks for the Research Assistant
- *Literature review; identifying and filing the most relevant papers in the literature*
- *Cleaning and merging of different datasets; creation of variables of interest.*
- *Performing descriptive statistical analyses; estimating regression models under the supervision of the professor.*
- *Preparation of graphs, maps, and tables to visualize the results; contribution to the drafting of the methodological section of a research report.*

Tools and Methodologies
● **Software/Programming Languages:** [*Stata, R, (possibly) QGIS*]
● **Methodologies:** *[Panel data analysis, IV analysis; Descriptive Statistics, Monte Carlo Simulations, Qualitative analysis, Survey design]*

Tentative Schedule of the Student's Work
● *Stage 1 (Month 1): Literature review and bibliography on the most relevant contributions of relationship between internal migration and selected labour market indicators;*
● *Stage 2 (Months 2): Data work; descriptive data analysis; Monte Carlo simulations*
● *Stage 3 (Months 3): Creating and estimating econometric models under the supervision of the professor; interpretation of the results.*
● *Stage 4 (Month 4): Writing of a report about the results of stage 3, including graphs and tables.*

SECTION 4 – SKILLS AND REQUIREMENTS
Application Requirements
Indicare le competenze e conoscenze necessarie per svolgere le attività, distinguendo tra essenziali e preferenziali.
● **Essential Requirements:**
  ○ *Some experience with data management*

● **Preferential Requirements:**
  ○ *Knowledge of Stata*
  ○ *Successfully passed exams of Econometrics at master level*

Date: *08/01/2026*

Signature of the proposing professor: *Mauro Lanati*

SECTION 5 – THE STUDENT

Student's name and surname: _____

Immatriculation number: _____

Email address at Unifi: _____

Curriculum in the MSc Economics and Development: Economics / Development Economics

SECTION 6 – DUTIES OF THE PROFESSOR, DUTIES OF THE STUDENT, ECTS RECOGNITION

The detailed schedule of the student's activities will be determined jointly by the professor and the student, taking into account the student's other courses in the MSc Economics and Development.

The professor will be available to guide the student and provide the materials and support which are necessary for the research assistantship. The professor will monitor the student's progress, will provide constructive feedback, and will prepare a final evaluation of the student's work.

Before the research assistantship begins, the student will follow the online course HS Workers' General Training – 2026 available at https://formstudelearning.unifi.it/course/index.php?categoryid=2, pass the exam for this course and will send to the professor proof of having passed the exam. The student will then diligently perform the activities the research assistantship requires, will meet deadlines, will treat the data and information related to his / her activities as confidential, will fill a logbook of his / her activities and will prepare a final report about her / his research assistantship.

In order to earn 6 ECTS as B004980 Tirocinio, the student will send the following documents to english.msc@economia.unifi.it:
- logbook of his / her activities which certifies at least 150 hours of work in the research project (signed by the professor);
- a report about his / her research assistantship;
- answers to a questionnaire about his / her research assistantship;

The professor will send to english.msc@economia.unifi.it a final evaluation of the student's work.

The above is consistent with the "Regolamento per la disciplina delle attività formative interne come assistente alla ricerca del corso di laurea magistrale in Economics and Development". The professor and the student have read such a document and accept its content.

Date: _____

Professor's signature: _____

Student's signature: _____