

Proposal of Research Assistantship

MSc in Economics and Development, Università degli Studi di Firenze

SECTION 1 – KEY INFO

Research Project Title	Aging Population: How Individual Preferences Change and Their Impact on Public Policies
Proposing professor	Chiara Rapallini, chiara.rapallini@unifi.it
Workload	150 hours, to be recognized as B004980 Tirocinio (6 ECTS).
Time period	Feb. 15, 2026 – July 15, 2026.
Working place	<input type="checkbox"/> At the Dipartimento di Scienze per l'Economia e l'Impresa <input type="checkbox"/> Remote <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hybrid <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

SECTION 2 – BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT

The aim of the project is to assess whether preferences for public spending on education change with the voter's age and according to his or her knowledge of the potential benefits of this type of public expenditure for economic growth and social mobility. To address this research question, an original dataset has already been collected through a survey experiment with several informational treatments and a control group. The dataset is representative of the Italian population, at least in terms of age and gender structure. The student will assist in analyzing the data, starting with descriptive statistics for the different samples and tests of proper randomization, and then examining the effects of the different treatments.

SECTION 3 – DETAILS ABOUT THE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Objectives

After the research assistantship, the student will be able to:

- analyze survey data using descriptive statistics and basic inferential techniques;
- assess the quality of experimental randomization and sample balance;
- estimate and interpret the effects of informational treatments in survey experiments;
- critically evaluate empirical evidence on public opinion and public spending preferences.

Main Tasks for the Research Assistant

- Performing descriptive statistical analyses; estimating regression models under the supervision of the professor.
 - Preparation of graphs, maps, and tables to visualize the results;
 - **Tools and Methodologies**
 - **Software/Programming Languages:** Stata, LaTeX
 - **Methodologies:** Statistical test of the differences, OLS and Probit regressions models
 - **Tentative Schedule of the Student's Work**
 - Stage 1 (Months 1-2): Constructing and clearing of the dataset; descriptive data analysis.
 - Stage 2 (Months 3-4): Creating and estimating econometric models under the supervision of the professor; interpretation of the results.
 - Stage 3 (Month 5): Writing of a report about the results of stage 2, including graphs and tables.
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SECTION 4 – SKILLS AND REQUIREMENTS

Application Requirements

- **Essential Requirements:**
 - At least 6 ECTS earned by passing exams of Econometrics at master level
 - Basic knowledge of Stata
 - **Preferential Requirements:**
 - At least 6 ECTS earned by passing exams of Behavioral Economics
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Date: January 7, 2026

Signature of the proposing professor:

Clara Repellini

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: _____