

HR191	POSITION DESCRIPTION	 UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD
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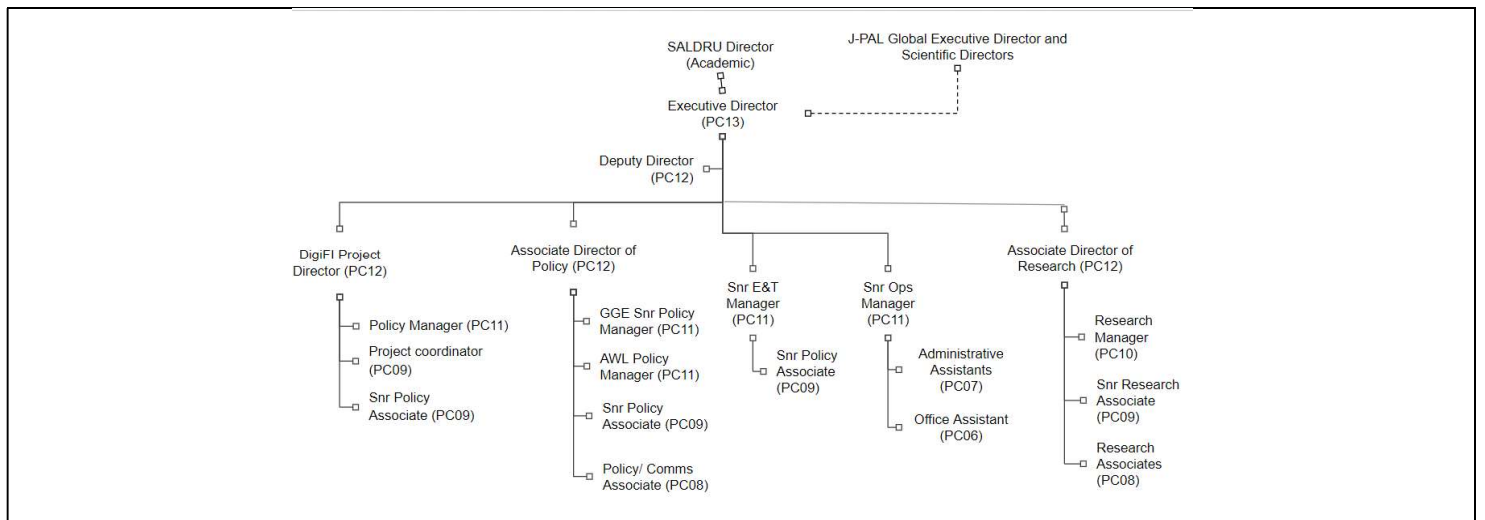
NOTES

- Forms must be downloaded from the UCT website: <http://forms.uct.ac.za/forms.htm>
- This form serves as a template for the writing of position descriptions.
- A copy of this form is kept by the line manager and the position holder.

POSITION DETAILS

Position title	Senior Research Manager		
Job title (HR Practitioner to provide)			
Position grade (if known)	PC11	Date last graded (if known)	December 2018 - updated May 2019
Academic faculty / PASS department	Economics		
Academic department / PASS unit	SALDRU		
Division / section	J-PAL Africa		
Date of compilation	17 October 2018 - updated 31 May 2019		

ORGANOGRAM



PURPOSE

The senior research manager will oversee research at J-PAL Africa. This involves overseeing the implementation of randomised evaluations in South Africa, ensuring that these studies are run to a high standard. It also involves hiring, training and managing the research staff who run or work on these evaluations, developing research opportunities and working closely with a range of stakeholders – notably PIs, policymakers and J-PAL staff from other divisions and regions - on research generation, implementation and dissemination. The senior research manager may also lead efforts to expand or improve J-PAL Africa’s research practices, reputation and external contributions.

CONTENT

Key performance areas	% of time spent	Inputs (Responsibilities / activities / processes/ methods used)	Outputs (Expected results)
E.g. General and office administration	25%	Takes, types up and distributes minutes and agendas for monthly departmental meeting. Greet visitors, enquires as to the nature of their visit and directs them to the appropriate staff member.	All staff members receive an electronic copy of accurate minutes and agendas, in the departmental template/format, a week before the meeting. Visitors are directed to appropriate staff member in a professional and efficient manner.
1 Help set the vision and strategic direction for the research team	10%	Oversee definition and implementation of J-PAL Africa's research strategy Oversee and support efforts to improve how research is conducted across projects Ensure J-PAL Africa research team adheres and contributes to wider J-PAL's objectives Be point of contact for research team for ad-hoc requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A strategy for J-PAL Africa's research team is defined, agreed with relevant stakeholders and periodically updated ● A framework or system is created/used for operationalising the strategy ● Significant progress is made towards implementing the strategy's key aims ● A portfolio of demonstrable improvements to research processes are made ● Ad-hoc requests to research team are addressed

<p>2</p> <p>Project Management: managing J-PAL Africa's evaluations</p>	<p>65%</p>	<p>Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise several (up to 4) impact evaluations/research projects. • Oversee all the steps of the implementation of each impact evaluation: project management, sampling, intervention monitoring, data collection, data cleaning and analysis <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire, train and supervise the team working on each research project, including (Senior) Research Associates, and less directly, Interns, Project Associates and field enumerators as appropriate. • Support Research Associates in management of other members of the research team • Ensure rigorous hiring standards are implemented for all research positions • Oversee training of the research team in all relevant research protocols/methods • Oversee professional development of research team members • Oversee timely tracking of expenditure to budget • Approve financial reports for donors <p>Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee communication and engagement with (potential) partner organizations and other stakeholders and funders • Engage in feedback and planning with PIs • Ensure that good planning and communication procedures are in place for implementing partners • Oversee communication with policymaking partners on research findings and progress <p>Academic contribution to J-PAL Africa research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and/or guide research staff to give direct academic input into all research projects (on e.g. study design, analysis, measurement, literature contribution, paper writing), particularly using knowledge of implementation and local context (e.g. interpretation of measures, potential for spillovers/poor compliance, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fieldwork activities are carried out as per project plans. • The integrity of the study design is respected and field and data entry protocols are implemented. • High quality and reliable data is collected. • Project management systems are implemented on each study • J-PAL research standards are met or exceeded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each project is run by trained and highly-skilled staff. • Each project's budget is spent and used as planned or deviations are identified and reported early, expenses are tracked and reported to donors on a frequent basis. • Research staff are motivated and growing through professional development opportunities • J-PAL Africa has a stable, growing, high-delivery research team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good relationships with partner organisations and funders are built and maintained. • PIs and partners are constantly informed of the progress of their study and potential challenges. • Results and findings are shared with project partners and broader stakeholders in an engaging and useful way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J-PAL Africa staff make a contribution to prospective and existing projects' proposals, design, measurement, analysis or other academic tasks • Existing projects are designed, implemented and results analysed in manner that upholds high academic standards (high internal validity, good measurement practices, appropriate analyses), where possible.
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3	Project Development	15%	<p>Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively seek out or respond to potential partners on specific research questions identified by and with J-PAL Africa Share learnings and build recognition of our local work (meetings, writing, presenting) among potential partners/stakeholders Capacity building: Provide focused advice and support to prospective evaluators or implementers on how to approach their impact evaluations (this can include ToC workshops, meetings, custom trainings and other methods), <p>Study development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and discuss potential research design options Explore funding opportunities Facilitate conversations between prospective PIs and prospective partners Support potential PIs in proposals for new projects, including study design, budgeting and fundraising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> J-PAL Africa has a respected presence among local evaluators and implementers Prospective partners have knowledge of value of rigorous impact evaluations to their organisations Good relationships are developed and held with a variety of local players in development/research. New people or organisations express interest in working with J-PAL Africa Workshops/presentations held and/or written pieces published on research methods/lessons. These outputs are delivered to research/related audiences. Specific research opportunities are identified and explored, through high quality discussions, particularly on design options Appropriate PIs are engaged in conversations about prospective work
4	Education and training	5%	Contribute to J-PAL capacity building activities including: workshops, seminars, Executive Education courses, staff training and research resources compilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High quality capacity building activities and resources produced
5	Academic contribution to J-PAL Africa research	5%	PI on studies if opportunities allows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide academic leadership to relevant studies

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Minimum qualifications	A Masters in Public Policy or Economics or another similar social science including graduate level (Honours and up) courses in econometrics/ statistics, microeconomics or development economics			
Minimum experience (type and years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of three years of relevant work experience • Experience conducting field research in developing countries • Demonstrated ability to conduct rigorous quantitative research • Experience in data cleaning, analysis or other programming conducted in Stata • Experience managing complex research projects • Demonstrated people management experience (including managing staff at multiple levels), ideally including managing a survey team in a developing country • Experience in managing relationships with multiple stakeholders from different institutions or departments • Experience writing and managing budgets • Proven ability to handle multiple diverse assignments at one time, successfully complete assigned tasks and meet deadlines while conducting high-quality work 			
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced writing and oral presentation skills in English, particularly the ability to communicate technical research considerations to policymakers in a non-technical manner • Strong skills in data analysis and programming using Stata and/or R and/or Python 3, including task automation • Familiarity with Microsoft and Google Suite, and data collection software like SurveyCTO and/or Qualtrics • Ability and willingness to learn new software/ programming technologies • Partnership building and conflict resolution • Project management and organisational skills • Ability to think strategically and institutionalise new practices across several teams 			
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong understanding of development economics, impact evaluation methodology, randomised evaluations, statistics, microeconomics and econometrics • Understanding of quantitative data collection best practices and tools • Ethics of conducting research with human subjects 			
Professional registration or license requirements	Not required			
Other requirements (If the position requires the handling of cash or finances, other requirements must include 'Honesty to handle cash or finances'.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honesty to handle cash or finances • Driver's licence • Ability to travel within South Africa 			
Competencies (Refer to UCT Competency Framework)	Competence	Level	Competence	Level
	Analytical thinking / problem solving	3	Communication	2
	Adaptability / flexibility	2	People management	3
	Building partnerships	2	Individual leadership	2
	Professional knowledge and skill	2	Quality commitment	3

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY




Functions responsible for	<p>Overseeing implementation of J-PAL Africa research studies</p> <p>Managing research staff who conduct the implementation of these studies, relevant stakeholders and resources</p> <p>Identifying and exploring opportunities for new research studies</p> <p>Contributing to dissemination efforts for completed studies</p> <p>Improving research methods and practices for J-PAL Africa</p>
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Amount and kind of supervision received	Managed by J-PAL Africa Executive Director, research projects led by Principal Investigators
Amount and kind of supervision exercised	Directly hires, trains and manages senior research associates and research associates. Oversees and supports management of their project staff, including (senior) project associates, interns and enumerators
Decisions which can be made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods of project and resource management • People management styles, structures and performance management • Method/content of data quality checks, data collection tools and processes • Sizes and position structures of field teams • Most project spending decisions • Quantity and content of staff training • Content, frequency and type of engagement with most stakeholders for existing or exploratory work • Research improvement projects to pursue
Decisions which must be referred	<p>The following decisions are made jointly with the Executive Director, PIs or other divisions and the senior research manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final decisions on undertaking new studies • Final hiring recommendations for research associates and above • Major project spending decisions (e.g. external training courses, office space rental) • Re-allocation of core research staff between projects • Contract finalisation, major MOUs, etc. • Drafts/proposals of core academic outputs (e.g. power calculations, pre-analysis plans, study design options, etc.)

CONTACTS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Internal to UCT	<p>Reports to J-PAL Africa Executive Director</p> <p>Works with J-PAL Africa research, policy, training and operations teams</p> <p>Works with UCT researchers (existing PIs, prospective PIs or other researchers with shared interests), UCT HR, UCT Finance, UCT RCIPS</p>
External to UCT	<p>J-PAL Affiliated researchers (mostly professors) and other PIs from around the world</p> <p>J-PAL Global and regional offices</p> <p>Other researchers (not in PI functions) in South Africa</p> <p>Policymakers (government officials, development partners, NGOs, etc.), primarily in South Africa</p> <p>Donors (generally international)</p>

AGREED BY

	PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	CONTACT NO.	DATE
Position Holder	vacant			
Line Manager	Ntombi Mbaso (interim deputy executive director)		x7209	08-11-2023
HOD	Cally Ardington			09-11-2023
Dean / ED	Suki Goodman		2472	17.11.2023
HR Practitioner	Rushda Alawie	