



UNICEF Data Science Researcher in Residence Program: Application Form

Applicant information

Name		Organization	
Role title		Division or Department	

Budget

Salary contribution		Data for Good Exchange Attendance September 28, 2015 (Indicate Yes or No)	
Travel/subsistence		Equipment (if applicable)	
Other (if applicable)		TOTAL	

Timeline

Estimated start date		Hours/week worked	
Duration (months)			
Constraints/flexibility:			



UNICEF Data Science Researcher in Residence Program: Applicant Guidance

OVERVIEW

A 'data revolution' is transforming the data landscape, where “new technologies are leading to an exponential increase in the volume and types of data available, creating unprecedented possibilities for informing and transforming society and protecting the environment. Governments, companies, researchers and citizen groups are experimenting, innovating and adapting to the new world of data, a world in which data are bigger, faster and more detailed than ever before.”

Yet the data revolution also creates new risks. Inequities in access and use of data reinforce gaps across countries, sectors, industries and prevent informed decision-making and programming for children. Persistent coverage gaps mean that many children remain uncaptured. Poor quality or insufficient data pose an equally important risk to children's wellbeing. At the same time, the increasing volume, availability and retention of data may create or exacerbate confidentiality and human rights concerns, while overwhelming many decision makers.

The data landscape is crowded and demands are increasing. There is an increased potential for new kinds of data-focused public-private partnerships but also an increased risk that key actors controlling data either ignore children's issues or restrict data access to those who can pay. At the same time, current public sector mechanisms for monitoring, including through household surveys and administrative systems, need to be strengthened in order to meet new demands, including for data on new issues.

Despite ongoing efforts, UNICEF's ability to generate attention and attract the data science research community towards children's problems and, vice versa, to mobilize UNICEF's resources and understanding towards a more Data Science driven approach to problems is still limited.

In response, UNICEF and Bloomberg have joined forces to strengthen the internal capacity and external outreach of the organization to reap the benefits of the ongoing data revolution for children and to drive global data science research attention towards children focused problems. To this end, Bloomberg will fund a Researcher-in-residence at UNICEF Headquarters in New York for a period of 6-12 months.

The Researcher will work along with UNICEF's Data, Research and Policy and Innovation Unit teams, in partnership with Bloomberg LP to further research and strengthen collaboration, transfer of knowledge and capacity building around Data Science and Research for children.

REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

The position is open to candidates who have a strong track record in data science research and impact generation, in particular in fields related to UNICEF's areas of focus. Post-doctoral candidates from a quantitative scientific field, such as Computer

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Science, Mathematics, and Physics, with preference given to researchers with more than 2 years post Ph.D.

Awards will be made conditional to agreement to the following:

- Attendance of at least three events selected by UNICEF and/or Bloomberg L.P.; one mandatory event will be the Data for Good Exchange on September 28, 2015.
- Response to three short surveys: pre- during and post-award.

The focus of the proposed residency should be impact generation from data science research, via either a single intensive residency, or a series of visits over a longer period. The selected candidate will:

- 1. UNDERSTAND and SUPPORT UNICEF'S DATA STRATEGY:** Help UNICEF in identifying and pushing forward key lines of Data Science/Computational Social Science Research with more potential to revolutionize children focused humanitarian development. Work to increase UNICEF's knowledge and awareness around the potential of data science for the ongoing development of its second-generation data strategy for children, and to leverage knowledge transfer and capacity building on Data Science for humanitarian development at a global level.
- 2. RESEARCH and DEVELOP:** Help UNICEF to expand Data Science Research on children related problems, strengthening UNICEF's position and children issues on the global Data Science Research community/agenda. With the support of UNICEF and Bloomberg L.P., design new data science methods or applying existing ones to solve a pressing problem at UNICEF and directly aid their core mission. Raise awareness from the academic community by publishing work in a top-tier scientific conference or journal.

APPLICATION PROCESS

By August 21st, candidates will download an application form from the bloomberg.com/d4gx website, and submit a completed form, their CV, a statement of purpose for their work with UNICEF and three (3) letters of recommendation. This should include a statement that you will be granted leave from institutional or departmental responsibilities for the duration of any periods of residency.

Application forms and other supporting documentation (see below) will be assessed by a joint board composed by UNICEF, Bloomberg and an expert advisory group on Data Science Research. Applicants will be assessed on the merits of their proposal, its relevance to UNICEF's areas of focus, their relevant expertise and the expected impact(s) of their project. We anticipate that the review process will take approximately 4 weeks.

The Bloomberg logo, consisting of the word "Bloomberg" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.



By September 14th, the board will select a set of top candidates, based on the proposals and potential interviews and will ask as the best candidates to join and participate in the Data for Good Exchange held on September 28th. At the Data for Good Exchange, the candidates will share their vision to provide a more comprehensive global view of the potential of Data Science/Computational Social Science Research for humanitarian development. Subsequent to that public proposal, the fellow will be chosen to begin their residence starting on January 1st.

The Data for Good Exchange event, as well as the candidate pool, will also serve to expand UNICEF's data science collaboration network.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Candidate must present their relevant experience with data science and how they came to be interested in applying data science to problems in social good, and in particular to children in humanitarian and development settings. Next, they should outline their strategy for knowledge transfer and capacity building and how they would go about fulfilling the first part of their mission ("understand and support"). They should then suggest some ideas on how they might apply data science to problems affecting children and how they would fulfill the second part of their mission ("research and develop"). As they describe these activities, they should highlight their areas of interest in children's humanitarian development, and why they feel they are the appropriate candidate to undertake these activities.

FORMAT

Please submit documents in PDF format, in minimum font size 11.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact: Manuel Garcia Herranz (mgarciaherranz@unicef.org) and/or Natalia Adler (nadler@unicef.org) / Gideon Mann (gmann16@bloomberg.net).

Complete applications should be sent to dpinnovation@unicef.org with the subject line BLOOMBERG-UNICEF RESEARCHER IN RESIDENCE by the call deadline.

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