

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Research Assistant in the Department of Economics and Finance on the research project:

“The effect of in-utero stress on birth outcomes: evidence from earthquakes in Italy”

1. Institutional details

- Tutor name and email: Professor Vuri (Daniela.vuri@uniroma2.it) and Prof. Atella (atella@uniroma2.it)
- Economic fields: Labor and health economics
- Internship start date (please indicate if flexible or not): spring 2022
- Full-time/Part-time: full time

2. Skills and Experience required

- Languages required: Italian/english
- Degree requirement: Enrollment in MSc Economics
- Skills required: Knowledge of STATA; experience in micro-data management, good knowledge of microeconometrics

3. Job description: ***“The effect of in-utero stress on birth outcomes: evidence from earthquakes in Italy”***

- The objective of this research project is to study the effect of maternal in-utero stress on birth outcomes. A growing literature suggests that in utero stress can have negative effects on the newborns. However the mechanisms are unknown and in addition it is not possible to measure the level of stress. However, extreme natural events (like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods) are considered an unexpected source of stress but easily measurable. Therefore they can be used to understand the effect of unexpected shocks on birth outcomes. In our project we will use the earthquakes of Aquila in 2009, in Emilia Romagna in 2012, in the Centre of Italy in 2016 to study the effect of interest.
- The intern will be involved in data management on CEDAP data (the universe of birth data in Italy). The intern will be required to acquire familiarity with the data, clean the data, verify the consistency of the variables overtime and match them with the data on earthquakes.
- The intern will develop the following skills: proficiency in working with STATA