

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

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

“Poverty, Inequality and Economic Vulnerability: Italy, 1861-2021”

1. Institutional details

- Tutor name and email: Prof. Nicola Amendola (nicola.amendola@uniroma2.it), Prof. Federico Belotti (federico.belotti@uniroma2.it), and Prof. Giovanni Vecchi (giovanni.vecchi@uniroma2.it).
- Economic fields: Economic History, Economics, Statistics, and Microeconometrics.
- Internship start date: Spring or Summer 2023.
- Full-time/Part-time: part time.

2. Skills and Experience required

- Languages required: Italian/English.
- Degree requirement: Enrollment in MSc Economics.
- Skills required: Good knowledge of Stata and Excel software.

3. Job description:

- The project aims to estimate the distribution of income in Italy from 1861 to the present day. New data and methods will permit the construction of a high frequency, annual series, with regional decompositions in benchmark years. The ambition is for Italy to have the best-documented history of living standards, poverty, and inequality among major economies. A historical perspective is crucial for understanding both the past and the present, mapping out the realm of the possible. How far and how quickly can poverty and inequality change? Are exogenous forces or consciously chosen policies more impactful? What can we expect from major shocks? Is there a tradeoff between growth and equity? The project will use historical data, in particular household budgets – see for instance A'Hearn, Amendola and Vecchi (2016) and Vecchi (2017). As for methods, we expect to apply state-of-the-art survey methods and improve on techniques for ungrouping grouped data, meaning the recreation of synthetic observations from multiple cross-tabulations.

References:

- A'Hearn, B., N. Amendola and G. Vecchi (2016). “On Historical Household Budgets”, *Rivista di Storia Economica*, (2016), 32, 2: 137-176.
- Vecchi, G. (ed.) (2017) *Measuring Wellbeing. A History of Italian Living Standards*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- The intern will be involved in all stages of the research, from data collection in the field (libraries, historical archives and other repositories), to data entry, to assisting senior researchers in devising new methods, carrying out estimations, and interpreting the results.
- We expect the intern to develop the skills needed to carry out academic research in the highly interdisciplinary field of modern economic history. The website www.hhbproject.com contains additional information.



Please note: To activate an internship with the selected student, the Tutor should contact Desk Imprese Economia Tor Vergata deskimprese@economia.uniroma2.it with msc_economics@economia.uniroma2.it in copy. The student must complete 150 internship hours at least 45 days prior to his/her graduation. Upon termination of the internship, the Tutor will be required to send immediate notice to Desk Imprese Economia Tor Vergata deskimprese@economia.uniroma2.it with msc_economics@economia.uniroma2.it in copy so the student may obtain credit recognition for the internship activity.