

## INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

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

### “Entrepreneur’s Economic Power and Political Influence”

#### 1. Institutional details

- Tutor name and email: Professor Eloisa Campioni
- Economic fields: Microeconomic Theory
- Internship start date (please indicate if flexible or not): flexible, August-September 2026 or January 2027
- Full-time/Part-time: No preference

#### 2. Skills and Experience required

- Languages required: English
- Degree requirement: Enrollment in MSc Economics
- Skills required: (e.g., Knowledge of econometrics software (...)); experience in micro-data management, good knowledge of statistical techniques, etc.)

#### 3. Job description: “\_\_\_\_\_”

The objective of this research project is to explore the relationship between economic power and political influence (Brandeis 1914; Olson 1968; Acemoglu and Robinson 2006a; Khan 2017; Cowgill, Prat, and Valletti 2022). Established research work has concentrated on national-level channels such as lobbying and campaign finance (Grossman and Helpman 1994; Bombardini and Trebbi 2011; Callander, Foarta, and Sugaya 2022), but recent evidence suggests that firms can also exert political influence through personnel decisions, shaping hiring patterns (Colonnelli, Neto, and Teso 2022) and employee political contributions (Babenko, Fedaseyev, and Zhang 2020) along partisan lines. If this was the case, firms may have the potential to directly shape political behavior of their employees. Can the structure of local labor markets—particularly, the presence of dominant employers – may create conditions for direct electoral influence? When a single or few firm(s) hold disproportionate sway over employment, they may leverage that position to shape the political preferences within local community, sometimes in ways that conflict with the broader public interest.

- The intern will be involved in examining existing literature approaching this question and writing a literature review or presentation
- The intern will develop the following skills: methodological skills related to the analysis of contracts and strategic interactions, knowledge about political economy models both theoretically and empirically grounded.

**Please note:** The student must complete 150 internship hours over the course of at least three months and submit the evaluation documents and timesheet 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](mailto:deskimprese@economia.uniroma2.it) with [msc\\_economics@economia.uniroma2.it](mailto:msc_economics@economia.uniroma2.it) in copy so the student may obtain credit recognition for the internship activity.