FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION (RTA) PROJECT:
Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour

Fellowships for junior researchers

The "From Research to Action" (RTA) project aims at accelerating the use of rigorous research by policymakers and practitioners in support to efforts to tackle child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking around the world. To safeguard the rights of all workers, including migrant workers, this project commits to engage researchers and promote new interest to strengthen the evidence base for achieving SDG 8.7.

The RTA project will award three Policy Research Fellows to address knowledge gaps in the field of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. The fellowship will build capacity and promote collaboration between skilled and early career researcher. Each fellow will be awarded up to US$18,000 for the period of 12 months. The project start date is within the first month of the award date and subject to funds availability and the approval of extension of the RTA project by the Donor.

The fellowship will be awarded through a global competition. ILO and IOM are committed to a diverse and inclusive workplace. Applications are particularly welcomed from qualified candidates from the Global South, female, and underrepresented populations in the research community.

The fellow will conduct her or his independent research project (a description of which will form part of the application process) within the university or research institution where the fellow is affiliated with. The fellow will be invited to contribute to the RTA project and present in a global event. Pending the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fellow will be invited to ILO HQ for a short period (1 to 2 weeks) to present the research project and gain exposure to ongoing RTA project activities.

The fellow will be supervised by a senior researcher from the university or research institution hosting the fellow. Moreover, the fellow will receive regular input and feedback from ILO, IOM, and a scientific committee formed by experts and academics working on the issue of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. Through the fellowship, we aim to provide the successful candidate an opportunity to work with a network of experts, advance research skills, and promote professional growth.

Participation requirements

The Fellowship is open to candidates of all nationalities who hold a graduate degree in a variety of research disciplines – such as, but not limited to, anthropology, business, child development, economics, health, public policy, psychology, sociology, gender studies, law, criminology, social work, and statistics – in rigorous research of direct relevance for policies relating to child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking.

The applicant must be willing to commit to a 12-month research project. The fellow will be hosted by the university or research institution of affiliation or where they are completing their studies. The supervisor must submit a letter of recommendation and willingness to support the work.

A letter of commitment is required from the University or research Institution to host the fellow, a demonstrable interest of the applicants in the issues of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking, and competency in English. The fellow is also encouraged to conduct and disseminate research in local and national languages. Accommodations may be made to support the translation of research.

The Fellow(s) require a combination of the following skills and experience:

- Advanced training in either quantitative or qualitative research methodology demonstrating either:
  - A sound grasp of economic and statistical theory and their application to practical policy issues. Or;
  - A sound background in qualitative research, such as comparative case studies;
- Ability to analyse data and information and to solve problems;
- Good writing skills;
- Ability to communicate complex technical ideas to non-specialists, verbally and in writing;
- Demonstrated interest and experience in the subject matter of this fellowship;
- Ability to work independently and meet strict deadlines;
- Motivated to seize the opportunities of this fellowship, become an active member of the hosting university or research institute;
- Ability to think creatively about complex foreign policy ideas to come up with interesting and unique article topics;
- Willingness to learn and accept advice.

The fellow will be informed by inputs from a scientific committee formed by experts and academics working on the issue child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. **An implementation agreement will be signed with the institution hosting the fellow, with the fellow stated as the key personnel**. Applicants should check with university or research institute administrators about the possibility of signing an implementation agreement. Please refer to the template [here](#).

The selection of proposals and attribution of fellowship(s) are subject to funds availability and the approval of extension RTA project by the Donor to cover the 12 months duration of the fellowship.

The ILO reserves the right to disqualify any entry that contains hurtful, misleading, libellous or vulgar content, or that contains any material that could constitute or encourage conduct which would be considered a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any national or international law or ILO standards.

Eligibility criteria

- Individuals who have recently obtained a PhD, currently enrolled a PhD program, or hold a master's degree with five years of relevant research and teaching experience in a variety of disciplines – such as, but not limited to, anthropology, child development, economics, health, public policy, psychology, sociology, gender studies and statistics – in rigorous research of direct relevance for policies relating to child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking;
- Are affiliated with a university or research institute.

Application process

Applicants must complete the [online application form](#) in English and send the following documents in one PDF document to rtaproject@ilo.org with the subject title "RTA fellowship application, [Last name], [first name]".

The complete package must include:

- A cover Letter summarizing the applicant's experience and motivations;

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- A recommendation letter from the proposed supervisor;
- Letter from the university or research institution stating their willingness in hosting the fellow;
- A research proposal of 3-5 pages specifying the objectives of the work, the methodology, and its relevance in the field of child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking;
- A publication record or up to 3 academic writing samples on research areas related to this call.

Research proposal components

- Abstract: 250 words
- Clearly state the problem/importance of research/research question
- Detailed description of proposed research methodology
- List advisor(s) and provide short description of their experience in the area of research
- Provide information on potential partnerships relevant to the research/data collection (local NGOs, government offices, statistical offices, etc)
- Develop a timeline for research completion within 12 months

Application deadline: 16 April 2021, 16h (GMT + 1/in Geneva).

Requests for the complete project description, as well as any questions, can be addressed to rtaproject@ilo.org.

Selection process

Applications that satisfy the eligibility requirements are subject to a review process by the scientific committee. Please refer to the evaluation process and criteria [insert link].

Outcome

The fellow is required to submit a manuscript for future publication (format to be determined, e.g. ILO report, scholarly journal publication). In addition, the fellow is required to present in a seminar, workshop, and/or conference during the award period. Any primary data collected in the process should also be made available to the research community through channels provided by the RTA project.