

RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL RESEARCHERS TO SUPPORT EVALUATION OF BAOBAB SOCIAL LEARNING PLATFORM (1 October 2021 to 28 February 2022)

Background

Baobab is a digital social, professional, learning community for young African leaders and participants and alumni of Mastercard Foundation programs. Arizona State University (ASU) developed and implements Baobab on behalf of the Mastercard Foundation. [Neil Butcher and Associates \(NBA\)](#) has been appointed by ASU to support the evaluation of the Baobab platform.

The evaluation design is premised on the active involvement of emerging African researchers. We are thus looking to recruit five local researchers to join the evaluation team on a part-time basis from 1 October 2021 to 28 February 2022. The following countries are included in this call: Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, and Senegal.

Roles and responsibilities

During the period 1 October 2021 to 28 February 2022, in-country researchers will be required to:

1. Participate in four to six virtual research capacity building sessions focused on data collection and data analysis.
2. Recruit local research participants, with support from NBA and Baobab.
3. Conduct in-country data collection (may be done remotely or in-person depending on Covid-19 restrictions in each country at the time of data collection). Data collection will include:
 - a. Conduct 2 focus groups with MCF Scholars
 - b. Conduct 1 focus group with MCF alumni (any MCF program)
 - c. Conduct 10 individual interviews with Baobab users
 - d. Conduct 4-6 employer interviews
4. Participate in data analysis and report writing activities together with the NBA evaluation team.

In-country researchers will join an international research team working across multiple time zones. It may be necessary to attend meetings and/or collect data outside of standard working hours.

Remuneration and other benefits

Each in-country researcher will be appointed for the equivalent of 12 days research time @ US\$320 per day. The total contract value is \$3,840.

In addition to remuneration for services provided, in-country researchers will receive a certificate of participation for completing the virtual research capacity building sessions.

There is also the possibility, based on research performance and funding provision, for continued involvement in the evaluation research in future years.

Minimum requirements

Eligible applicants will:

1. Have completed or currently be enrolled for a postgraduate qualification, preferably in the Social Sciences, Education or Humanities.
2. Have participated in at least one research project as a fieldworker, research assistant, or junior researcher.
3. Be based in Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya or Senegal [one researcher will be appointed in each country]
4. Have access to a computer/laptop and internet connectivity
5. Be fluent in the main local language(s) of the relevant focus country. Fluency in French is strongly recommended for candidates based in Senegal.
6. Have basic fluency in English
7. Be a current participant or alumnus of any Mastercard Foundation funded program (recommended) [Mastercard Foundation programs include: Anzisha Prize Fellows, Ashoka Fellows, Scholars Program, Skill Foundation Emerging Leaders, YALI, Youth Think Tank, and Zambezi Fellows]

Application process

Interested applicants should email Cathy MacDonald (cathymac@nba.co.za) a cover letter explaining their interest in the research and eligibility for the position, together with their CV. Three contactable references should be provided on the CV. Applications should be submitted before **10 September 2021**.

Please feel free to email Cathy should you have any questions about this opportunity.

