

SAIS-CARI Senior Research Assistant

The China-Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS-CARI) will offer one Senior Research Assistant (SRA) position starting July 2018. This is a two-year position (until June 2020), with a possibility of extension.

SAIS-CARI's mission focuses on promoting research, conducting evidence-based analysis, fostering collaboration, and training future leaders to better understand the economic and political dimensions of China-Africa relations and their implications for human security and global development. Launched in 2014, CARI is based at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington D.C. CARI was set up to promote evidence-based understanding of the relations between China and African countries through high-quality data collection, field research, publications, conferences, and collaboration. Throughout the years, SAIS-CARI has successfully hosted several international conferences, a number of roundtables, as well as contributed to multiple publications, including in accredited journals.

Position Summary

The SRA will play an indispensable role in CARI's ongoing success. One of CARI's primary research focuses is the ongoing updating and maintenance of our proprietary database on Chinese loans in Africa. As China does not publish detailed official figures of their official foreign lending, CARI is now the leading source of data for Chinese loan financing in Africa for academics, media, and U.S. government agencies. Much of our research is based on the output of this database.

To manage this database, we seek a creative individual with the skills of a detective or an investigative journalist, an organized and cheerful perfectionist with a close attention to detail, a quick learner, and a diligent and tenacious worker who enjoys tracking down information and working in teams.

Essential Duties

- Research (85-90%)
 - Leading CARI research assistants in cleaning and analyzing data on Chinese finance and investment in Africa;
 - Collecting annual China-Africa bilateral economic data;
 - Drafting research papers and policy briefs;
 - Updating CARI's website with the latest data and graphs;
 - Performing literature reviews;
 - Presenting at conferences, responding to media inquiries, briefing government officials;
 - Assisting with outreach activities and research communications;

- Training and selecting the research assistant team, comprising of M.A. and Ph.D. candidates at Johns Hopkins SAIS.
- Administrative support (10-15%)
 - Supporting Program Coordinator in event organization and research assistant management;
 - Other relevant duties as assigned.

Minimum qualifications

- Bachelor's degree.
- An understanding of China's overseas economic engagement (trade, investment, aid, loans, other forms of cooperation).
- MS Excel proficiency. Applicants must feel comfortable navigating, sorting, and summing large MS Excel files.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Fluency in reading and researching in Simplified Mandarin Chinese.
- Excellent writing and analytical skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, along with the ability to work independently and with initiative, and with colleagues from diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Preferred Qualifications

- Master's degree or professional experience in a relevant field.
- Working knowledge of econometrics analysis using STATA or R.
- Advanced MS Excel skills.
- Field research experience in Africa or China.
- Working proficiency in French, Portuguese, Arabic or other relevant African languages desirable, but not required.

This is a preliminary hiring process; final offer is contingent upon funding and university approval. Once the position is approved internally, applicants must complete the university's application process as well.

The deadline for this application is **June 8, 2018 at 11:59 pm EST**. Preferred start date of the position is July 1st, although the exact date may evolve.

This position is based at our D.C. office. Applicants must be authorized to work in the U.S. SAIS-CARI cannot provide work visas.

To apply, please email resume, cover letter, the names of two references, and a writing or research sample to sais-cari@jhu.edu, with the subject "SRA application".