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30/03/2018

Application to NBER Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to apply for the NBER's Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp. Please find my contact details above and a list of my completed PhD coursework overleaf. My letter of recommendation has been sent separately from Professor Beata Javorcik.

Yours sincerely,



Katherine Stapleton

Motivation for applying

I am applying to attend the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp in order to expand my knowledge of the economics literature relating to entrepreneurship. My existing research focus has been on international trade, labour markets and industrial policy. I am particularly interested in industrial policy aimed at promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. I am also interested in economic geography and how clustering and agglomeration link to entrepreneurship. At the bootcamp I hope to deepen my understanding of these topics and develop new and improved ideas for research in these fields. Additionally, as a second year PhD student my research interests remain broad and so I hope to learn more about areas of entrepreneurship economics that I have not yet considered.

My PhD research so far has focused on development economics and international trade. One of my key areas of interest is how industrial policy and international trade affect developing countries. I am particularly curious about the implications of industrial policy implemented in China for the geography of production and the relocation of manufacturing to lower-wage countries. One of my current PhD papers tries to empirically evaluate how

automation in China affects the geography of global value chains. Specifically, this paper develops an instrument for automation based upon Chinese district level government subsidies for the purchase of industrial robots, which have been implemented to varying degrees in different Chinese cities at different points in time. Using Chinese firm level data I then evaluate whether subsidies induce higher degrees of robot use and whether this affects measures of offshoring to low-skill labour intensive countries.

I am also interested in other policies implemented by the Chinese government to upgrade the manufacturing sector and incentivise innovation and entrepreneurship in China. A potential topics I would like to research in the future is the reason for the growth in patents and entrepreneurial activity in China over the past decade. I think there are some interesting policy experiments being implemented in China such as the development of innovation clusters, technology business incubators and the rapid growth in the provision of seed funding. I would like to explore whether there are any possible ways to develop a research paper on any of these topics. At the bootcamp I hope to refine these research questions through learning more about the state of knowledge on fundamental questions to the literature, such as why individuals become entrepreneurs and what the role of government policy should be.

My current research also focuses on a number of areas of labour economics. One of my working papers looks at how the rapid increase in higher education in China following higher education reform in 1999 has affected the graduate wage premium for marginally admitted students. This paper takes advantage of the Chinese university admissions system and uses a regression discontinuity design to evaluate the returns to education for marginally admitted students. A related area that interests me is the relationship between higher education and entrepreneurship. In the future I would like to potentially pursue research on how higher education expansion affects entrepreneurship and the importance of university research centres for clusters and innovation.

Additionally, I have been working with Danish matched worker-firm data to consider how automation affects productivity, employment and the organisation of firms. This has involved exploiting the timing of robotics-related inventions and looking at how increased use of robotics affects the composition of employment, firm expansion, the division of labour and firm hierarchy. On a similar theme I have also been working on a large project with the UK's Future of Work Commission to design their research agenda to better understand changes to the UK labour market such as automation, alternative working arrangements and the decoupling of wages and productivity. I am further interested in whether the invention of labour saving technology affects innovation in other fields or spurs entrepreneurship in response to

the falling demand for labour. These are questions I would also like to explore more in future work.

A final area of research I have been considering is the spatial concentration of industry in China and how this has changed over the past few decades. I am interested in the clustering of specialised product manufacturing in Chinese cities and how this clustering has been affected by rising wages and government planning. I am also interested in the role of clusters in fostering innovation. At the bootcamp I hope to further explore these areas by learning more about the literature that lies at the intersection of economic geography and entrepreneurship and innovation.

The NBER Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp seems like an excellent opportunity to get to grips with the cutting edge of economics research relating to entrepreneurship. There are many areas of this literature that I am interested in and considering exploring during my PhD. The bootcamp would give me the opportunity to discuss ideas with leading experts in these fields and gain a better background on the state of knowledge on these topics. This would be very beneficial to my future research and would allow me to refine specific research questions, measurement and empirical strategies. I very much hope to be considered for a place.

Completed PhD courses

1. Advanced Econometrics (2nd year MPhil)
2. International Trade (2nd year MPhil)
3. Economic History 2 (2nd year MPhil)
4. Econometrics (1st year MPhil)

Katherine Stapleton

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Nationality: British

EDUCATION

DPhil Economics, Oxford University (Lincoln College) **2016-present**
Supervised by Professors Beata Javorcik and Chris Woodruff. Thesis in the fields of International Trade & Labour Economics

MSc Economics for Development, Oxford University (Lincoln College), Distinction **2015**
Thesis title: 'Is there still a university wage premium in China? Evidence from a regression discontinuity design'
Received the Luca D'Agliano Prize for the Best Thesis and the George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance

BSc Economics and Econometrics, University of Nottingham, First Class Honours **2013**
Dissertation Title: 'The Role of Trade with China in sub-Saharan Africa's Recent Economic Growth: A Panel Data Analysis'.
Received the award for the best Economics dissertation and the Oliver Pawle Prize for Essay Writing

RESEARCH & EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Rhodes Artificial Intelligence Lab, UK Future of Work Commission, Project Director **2018**
Oxford University, Research Assistant for Professor Chris Woodruff **2017**
Ministry of Trade and Industry, Rwanda, Senior Economic Advisor (Overseas Development Institute Fellow) **2015 - 2016**
PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Economics and Policy Team, Economics Consultant **2013 - 2014**
Central Bank of Uganda Research Department, Research Assistant **2013**
UK Government Economic Service, Economist Internship **2012**

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Lincoln College GRF Grant Holder **2017**
Oxford Global Challenge Prize Winner for project on Affordable Housing in African Cities **2017**
ESRC and Sloane Robinson Scholarship for MSc and DPhil, Oxford University **2014-19**
Luca D'Agliano Prize for best MSc thesis, Oxford University **2015**
George Webb Medley Prize, Oxford University **2015**
Best Dissertation Award, Nottingham University **2013**
Oliver Pawle Prize, Nottingham University **2013**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Oxford University, PPE and E&M, International Economics (3rd year). Undergraduate Tutor **2017**
Oxford University, MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy, Quantitative Economics. Teaching Assistant **2017**
Oxford University, PPE and E&M, Quantitative Economics (2nd year). Teaching Assistant **2016/17**

RESEARCH PAPERS

[In progress] "Automation and the global sourcing decisions of Chinese firms"
[In progress] "Is there still a university wage premium in China? Evidence from a regression discontinuity design"
[In progress] "Housing finance in African cities" with the IGC Cities that Work program

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Women in Economics Group Founder **2017-18**
Economics DPhil GJCC Chair **2016-18**
Oxford China Forum Technology Panel Director **2018**

COMPUTER LITERACY AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Stata - proficient, Matlab, QGiS, R, Python, LaTeX – intermediate
English - native, Chinese and French –fluent, Spanish - conversational

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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Tel: +44(0)1865 271065 Fax: +44(0)1865 285900
beata.javorcik @economics.ox.ac.uk

Beata S. Javorcik
Professor of Economics

29 March 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Recommendation letter for Katherine Stapleton

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Katherine Stapleton's application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2018. I have known Katherine since October in my capacity as her dissertation supervisor, having taken over this role from a colleague who left Oxford.

Let me start with the bottom line: **Katherine is exactly the kind of a student who should be invited to the Boot Camp.**

Katherine is very gifted, as reflected in the fact that she has received the **Luca D'Agliano Prize for the Best Thesis** and the **George Webb Medley Prize for Best Overall Performance** in our highly competitive M.Sc. Program in Development Economics.

She is very highly motivated and a self-started. She will take the program very serious, prepare diligently for it and hence will benefit from the lectures a great deal. At the same time, she will be able to benefit the other participants by sharing her experience of having worked as an ODI Fellow in Rwanda's Ministry of Trade and Industry where she drafted Rwanda's most recent Industrial Policy. This is relevant, as promoting entrepreneurship and assisting businesses was one of the priorities of Rwanda's government.

Last but not the least, the program comes at the right time in that it can influence or even completely change the direction of Katherine's research. She is still at a relatively early stage of her dissertation research, so exposure to new ideas could encourage her to focus on entrepreneurship as the main topic of her dissertation.

In sum, **I support Kathering's application in the strongest terms.** Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Beata Javorcik

Beata Javorcik