Ruimin Ao
PhD student in Economics
University College London

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Dear Sir or Madame,

My name is Ruimin Ao and I am a 6th -year Ph.D student at University College London. I am writing to submit my application for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp. In this file you will find my CV as well as a letter of motivation. Thank you so much for reading and considering my application.

Professor Marcos Vera-Hernandez will send over the recommendation letter separately. His information is listed below:

Professor Marcos Vera-Hernandez

Professor of Economics,
Department of Economics,
University College London
Gower Street, WC1E 6BT, London, UK
Email: m.vera@ucl.ac.uk
Phone: +44 (0) 207 679 1007

Yours Sincerely,

Ruimin Ao

Ruimin AO

Email: R.ao@ucl.ac.uk
https://ruiminao.com/

Education

2020 -	**PhD Economics**, University College London
2019 - 20	**MRes Economics**, University College London
2018 - 19	**MSc Economics with Distinction**, University of Warwick
2014 - 18	**BSc Economics with Honors**, University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Affiliations

2023 -	**Visiting PhD Student**, Institute for Fiscal Studies

Supervisors

Professor Marcos Vera-Hernández
Department of Economics
University College London
m.vera@ucl.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)207 679 1007

Dr. Terri Kneeland
Department of Economics
University College London
t.kneeland@ucl.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)207 679 5804

Field of Research

Health Economics, Behavioural Economics, Development Economics, Public Economics.

Work in Progress

1. Households dietary responses as a results of climate change.

2. Optimal policies with rational addiction and dynamic substitution/complementarity: the case of smoking and vaping.

3. The impact of discount retail stores on household consumption and wellbeing: evidence from the UK.

4. Could doctor training improve knowledge and practice? An analysis of RCT program in Yunnan china.

PhD Courses Taken

ECON0107	Macoreconomics
	Course lecturer: Dr. Ralph Luetticke, Prof. Frank Portier, Prof. Vincent Sterk, Prof. Morten Ravn
ECON0106	Microeconomics
	Course lecturer: Prof. Martin Cripps, Prof. Philippe Jehiel, Prof. Vasiliki Skreta
ECON0108	Econometrics
	Course lecturers: Prof. Andrew Chesher, Prof. Toru Kitagawa, Prof. Martin Weidner and Dr. Daniel Wilhelm
ECON0086	Topics in Applied Econometrics
	Course lecturers: Prof. Aureo de Paula
ECON0112	Experimental Economics
	Course lecturers: Prof. Antonio Guarino, Dr. Terri Kneeland, Dr. Ryan Kendall
ECONDEV	Development Economics
	Course lecturers: Prof. Imran Rasul, Prof. Jonas Hjort, Dr. Gabriel Ulyssea
ECON	Topics in Applied consumer theory
	Course lecturer: Prof. Valérie Lechene

Teaching Experience

2023 -	TA for (BSc) Topics in Household Economics
	Course lecturer: Prof. Valérie Lechene
2021 -	TA for (MSc) Health Economics
	Course lecturer: Prof. Marcos Vera-Hernández
2020 - 23	TA for (BSc) Applied Economics
	Course lecturer: Dr. Dunli Li
2020 - 21	TA for (BSc) Quant. Economics & Econometrics
	Course lecturers: Prof. Dennis kristensen, Aureo de Paula and Kirill Borusyak

Work Experience

2022 -	Research Assistant to Prof. Marcos Vera-Hernández
2017	Development & Planning Assistant, Ping An Health Cloud Ltd.
2015 - 16	Research Assistant to Prof. Chang Liu

Scholarships and Awards

2022	Best TA on 1st Year UG module (UCL)
2018	Outstanding Student Leader (UNNC)
2018	Outstanding Graduate, by Government of Zhejiang Province, China
2017	Head's Scholarship (UNNC)
2017	Guo-Hua Xing-Zhi Scholarship (UNNC)
2017	Outstanding Youth League Leader (UNNC)
2016	Dean's Scholarship (UNNC)
2015	Provost Scholarship (UNNC)
2014	Entrance Scholarship (UNNC)

Additional Information

Language	Mandarin (native), English (fluent)
IT Skills	Stata, LaTeX, Matlab, R, Python, MS Office

Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025
Current and Future Research

Ruimin AO

6th-year PhD Student, Department Economics, University College London
R.ao@ucl.ac.uk

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am a PhD student in Economics at University College London, with research interests in health, development, and behavioral economics—particularly in individual behaviors with health implications. Currently, I have three ongoing research projects:

1. Climate change and Household diet (potential Job Market Paper): This project examines how households respond to changes in food availability and prices resulting from climate change, considering potential industrial innovations and adaptations. Climate shifts will make some land more fertile while rendering others less productive, altering global crop production. I aim to develop a model that describes farmers' crop choices, which would then shift relative food prices, and subsequently impact on household diets and nutrition.

2. Dynamic substitution pattern between smoking and vaping: This paper explores how individuals make dynamic choices between smoking and vaping when new vaping products enter the market, and how public policy can effectively reduce the burden of smoking. Building on the rational addiction literature, I model individuals as rational agents who make smoking and vaping decisions while considering their health effects. Given the potential for both substitution and complementarity between these products, I investigate how responses vary across individuals with different addiction levels and socio-economic backgrounds.

3. Household welfare and access to cheap food: This research tests the hypothesis that easy access to low-cost food can improve household well-being and mental health while potentially leading to healthier diets. I leverage the exogenous openings of discount stores as natural experiments to analyze how households respond to such changes.

When thinking about innovations we mostly think about R&D from firms, it is important to learn how consumers will react to new products and new technologies as to achieve maximum welfare. So far my research has primarily examined the consumer side of innovation, but I am eager to expand my perspective to capture the full spectrum of innovation dynamics. The Innovation Research Boot Camp offers an invaluable opportunity to learn such skill from the great minds around the world. It would have significant benefits to my future career and it would be an honor to be part of the program.

Kindest regards,
Ruimin AO

London, 5th February 2025

RE: Ao Ruimin

I am writing in support of Ao Ruimin, who has applied to the Innovation Research NBER Boot Camp. Ruimin is in the fourth year of the PhD at the Economics Department at UCL, and I am his primary advisor.

Ruimin is exploring topics in the intersection between health economics and innovation. He still does not have a definite paper that he is working on, so this bootcamp can really help me to find a topic for his job market paper. Ruimin is also very hard worker. He works very hard and comes very well prepared for his meetings with me. Although his research agenda is empirical, he pays a lot of attention to theory, and he has excellent modelling skills.

The bootcamp will be of great benefit for Ruimin, and I am sure that he will take full advantage of the amazing opportunity and will study the materials thoroughly in advanced. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Yours faithfully,

Marcos Vera-Hernández
Professor of Economics
Economics Department. University College London

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