NBER Entrepreneurship Working Group March 24th, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to apply for the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2016. I'm a second year PhD student in Economics at Stanford University.

My main research interests revolve around two areas: technology adoption and vacancy dynamics. As such, it is greatly related to entrepreneurship economics. Attached to this letter you will find an essay expanding into my current and future research areas. A recommendation letter from professor Nicholas Bloom, which I hope will be informative about my profile and fit for this working group, has been sent separately.

Best regards,



Ricardo De la O

Attached:
- *Curriculum Vitæ*
- *Essay*

Ricardo De la O
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Ricardo De la O

Education

Period	**2014 — 2019(Expected)**	
Degree	**Ph.D. in Economics**	
University	**Stanford University**	Stanford, USA

Period	**2012 — 2014**	
Degree	**M.A. in Economics. First Class**	
University	**El Colegio de México**	Mexico City, MEX

Period	**2002 — 2006**	
Degree	**B.S. in Engineering Physics. With Honors**	
University	**ITESM**	Monterrey, MEX

Relevant Experience

Period	**Jan 2013 — Aug 2014 (Part Time)**	
Employer	**TransEconomics**	MEX
Job Title	**Research Analyst**	

Period	**Jan 2012 — May 2012**	
Employer	**ITESM High school**	MEX
Job Title	**Assistant Professor**	

Period	**Jul 2007 — Sep 2011**	
Employer	**Schlumberger**	UK
Job Title	**Field Geophysicist**	

Period	**Jul 2002 — Sep 2006**	
Employer	**ITESM**	MEX
Job Title	**Laboratory Assistant**	

Other Courses

Date	**2014**
Title	**Asset Pricing (Coursera)**
Lecturer	**John Cochrane, University of Chicago**

Date	**2013**
Title	**Analysis of New Keynesian models using DYNARE**
Lecturer	**Alexander Mihailov. University of Reading**

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Date	**2013**
Title	**Discrete Choice Models**
Lecturer	**Jaume García Villar. Universitat Pompeu Favra**

Fellowships and Awards

2014-2015	**The Alejandro and Lida Zaffaroni Graduate Fellowship**
2014	**"Premio Josué Sáenz for best Master thesis". Honored Mention**
2014	**"Fundación BBVA-Bancomer Award to Excellence at Colmex"**
2013	**"Fundación BBVA-Bancomer Award to Excellence at Colmex"**
2012	**"Fundación BBVA-Bancomer Award to Excellence at Colmex"**
2002-2005	**Fundación Telmex Scolarship**
2002	**Gold medal at Mexican Mathematical Olympiad (OMM) and contestant at International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)**

Expertise and Fields of Interest

Languages	Spanish, English, French (Intermediate), Portuguese (Beginner)
Programming	Unix, C++, Mathematica, Ipopt, VB, MAPLE, MATLAB
Mathematics	Combinatorics, Discrete Mathematics
Economics	Labor Economics, Macroeconomics

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March 30, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

I use these lines to request admittance in the upcoming Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp, explain my research interests and describe how it links to several topics in entrepreneurship economics and entrepreneurship finance.

I'm interested on topics lying on the border of macroeconomic research and firm-level analysis. My course track has been varied across fields, and ranged between theory, macroeconomic, finance and labor courses. In particular, there are two research areas whose surface I've begun to scratch and I see part of my future research in either one of them. The first one relates to soft technology adoption pattern by firms. Why do soft technologies (e.g. management practices, organizational capital) diffuse so slowly in firms in developing countries? For firms considerably below the technological frontier, patent protection seems to be second-order concern. The potential effect of this adoption process in individual firm growth could be of great interest, and an approach from the outset of firm creation could shed some lights on the different adoption patterns. As of now, I'm trying to engage in some areas of the literature in information and organizational economics to find a proper structure that could give rise to some type of complementarities between human capital and financial distress that could explain certain patterns of soft technology adoption.

The second research area is on the labor market dynamics. I have been following the recent study of the decline in labor transition dynamics, in particular Steven Davis and John Haltiwanger work about the declining job fluidity and I'm aware of the share

attributed to the age profile evolution of firms. Linking these fluidity facts with some macro phenomena like the decline in labor income share is one of my personal goals. However, I also would be interested to know the effects of the fluidity can have in occupational choice and segmentation of labor markets via its effect on subsistence and on transformational entrepreneurs. Even though economic dynamism could be very hard to measure in developing countries, the dual characteristic of formal-informal labor markets presents an extra dimension to explore these mechanisms.

In sum, there is a lot of work done by the professors in the program that could be useful to establish my line of research. Further, given my macro and theoretically strong profile, I think that I can strongly complement the profiles of the cohort.

Thanks for your consideration.



Ricardo De la O

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March 28th 2016

Dear Bootcamp Committee,

Letter of support for Ricardo De La O

Ricardo is very enthusiastic, energetic and would be a great Bootcamp participant. He took my second year PhD Economic Labor Economics II with me, a course focused on non-structural applied micro. He was very lively – asked probably the most questions of all the students in the class, and these were great points and I loved having him in class. The course includes treatment of recent applied research on firm and labor markets, as well non-market interactions. So the topics are also very aligned with the Bootcamp themes – productivity, business performance, start-ups, regulation, competition etc – so I think the fit would be excellent, and certainly as a teacher in the Bootcamp it would be excellent to have students like Ricardo (lively and engaged) in class.

Moreover, Ricardo is also part of a student-run reading group targeting macroeconomic questions using micro datasets and his research interest points to that area as well that I'm engaged in. That in itself is impressive as mostly these are higher year students (Ricardo is one of only two second year students I believe). And again, based upon this and the nature of the entrepreneurship workshop, I believe both that the program will be useful for his career path and that Ricardo would be a great fit for the objectives of the group.

So in summary a very strong recommendation based on Ricardo being a huge positive externality on class (engaged interesting questions), working on related topics and also being personally driven and motivated by economics. What more could you ask (and

many thanks again for organizing this which is an amazing facility for the students, and a great way for us to meet them as well).

Yours Sincerely,



Nicholas Bloom
Professor of Economics and Courtesy Professor at Stanford GSB
Co-Director of the NBER Productivity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Program