

**Feinstein International Center/Tufts University  
Apolou Activity (led by Mercy Corps Uganda, funded by USAID)  
Terms of Reference: Research Assistant**

**Program overview:** The **Apolou Activity** is a USAID-funded consortium that consists of Mercy Corps, Save the Children, Whave, Tufts University's Feinstein International Center, and a number of local Uganda organizations. The consortium has proposed a series of activities aimed at improving the food and nutrition security of vulnerable households in the Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, and Amudat districts of Karamoja, Uganda. The primary involvement of the Feinstein International Center of Tufts University consists of conducting research to contribute to learning and improve programming. We focus our quantitative and qualitative research on a range of topics, including but not limited to (a) vulnerability dynamics and inequity, (b) trade, mobility, and livelihood strategies, (c) changes to household, community, and social dynamics, including an explicit focus on gender and youth dimensions. Year 3 of this 5-year project begins in October 2019.

**Expected involvement, compensation, and mode of engagement:** The Research Assistant will be engaged for no more than 10 hours/week during the semester. We plan to initially engage this Research Assistant for 10 weeks, though there is a possibility for extension into the spring semester, as well as the possibility of exploring summer fieldwork if this is of interest to the applicant. This can be discussed with the Principal Investigator over the course of this work.

The compensation is \$20/hour, and the Research Assistant is expected to keep track of their hours and report them to the administrative manager in order to process payment. There is some flexibility in how the hours are distributed over the course of the project (i.e. it is not necessary to work the same amount of hours every week, or to use up all 10 hours allocated to each week). In addition to carrying out the tasks listed below, the Research Assistant will be expected to occasionally participate in team calls via Skype and respond to emails.

**Reporting structure:** The Research Assistant will report to Elizabeth Stites, who is the Principal Investigator for the Feinstein International Center. The Researcher will also be expected to work closely with Roxani Krystalli, the Program Manager, with Barbara Athieno, the FIC Apolou Project Manager in Uganda, and with other members of the Tufts study team.

**Activities** (and estimated time frame)

Support qualitative research, analysis, and coding

- Collaborate with team members to develop profiles of qualitative research participants, based on data collected last year. *To take place in September.*
- Support the qualitative data collection remotely, as requested. *To take place in October and November.*
- Participate in the coding of field research (and any associated training) as discussed with the Principal Investigator and study team. This includes developing the coding scheme, applying the codes, and communicating with the team throughout the coding process. *November and December.*
- If funding allows, contribute to the write-up of project reports, primarily by playing a significant role in the qualitative write-up of the draft report. *Spring 2020*
- If funding allows, revise draft report as needed, based on feedback from key stakeholders. *Spring 2020*



### Other tasks

- Read relevant project documents and outputs as necessary background and context for the current work.
- Attend team meetings and conference calls via phone or Skype, as requested.
- Contribute to other program activities, as requested by the Principal Investigator.

### **Qualifications**

*Note that the position is open to first- and second-year graduate students.*

#### *Required*

- Excellent research skills, with a focus on accessible writing and analysis
- Ability to work in a cross-cultural team, including coordinating with team members based in different countries and working closely with team members for whom English is not the first language
- Experience in applying gender and youth lenses to research and work
- Availability to start immediately and work up to 10/hours a week for 10 weeks

#### *Preferred*

- Experience in conducting, analyzing, and writing up qualitative research strongly preferred
- Prior familiarity with academic and practitioner research on livelihoods in conflict
- Background on research/work in Uganda (or elsewhere in East Africa) preferred, but not required

### **How to apply**

Please submit a **single file** with your CV and cover letter to Elizabeth Stites, [Elizabeth.stites@tufts.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.stites@tufts.edu). In the cover letter, please be sure to address how you meet the qualifications listed above.

In the cover letter, please also list one person we can contact as a reference. For second-year graduate students, please list a professor at Fletcher/Friedman. For first-year students, please list one person who can best comment on how you meet these qualifications.

**Applications must be received by Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, noon EST in order to be considered.** Late applications will not be accepted. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an interview via Skype. All candidates will be notified of the outcome by late September.

