

Terms of Reference

ITC Internship Program

Division: Division of Market Development (DMD)

Section: Research and Strategies for Exports section (RSE)

Project Title: Export Strategy Design and Implementation Management

Name of the Supervisor: Charles Roberge

Assignment title: Intern to contribute to the design of National Export Strategies

Duration: 3 months starting June 2021 until September 2021 (tbc)

Duty station: ITC Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland

Background

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. As part of ITC's mandate of fostering sustainable development through increased trade opportunities, the Chief Economist and Export Strategy (CEES) section provides technical assistance and supporting tools in the design, implementation and monitoring of national, sectoral and regional export strategies. ITC-facilitated trade development strategies and roadmaps are oriented to the trade objectives of a country or region, and can be tailored to high-level economic goals, specific development targets or particular sectors, allowing policymakers to choose their preferred level of engagement.

In 2021, ITC will initiate the design of the National Export Strategy (NES) for Vietnam, Pakistan, South Sudan, and many other countries. The NES is viewed as an important step towards improving each country's export competitiveness, by providing roadmaps to address supply-side, business environment, market entry and developmental constraints.

In the Division of Market Development (DMD), the Research and Strategies for Exports section (RSE) is mandated with providing technical assistance for strategy design and management. Through the design of NES, ITC provides a combination of advisory and capacity-building inputs, as well as specialized expertise, to ensure the final NES document is of the highest quality and validated by the relevant authorities.

To achieve this, DMD/CEES will retain the services of an intern to contribute - in real-time - to the design of these strategies through the undertaking of quantitative and qualitative research in specific thematic areas relevant, as well as contribute to the overall analytical work required to elaborate sector and trade support strategies, and the completion of specific reports and studies supporting the NES design. Specific focus will also be given to consolidating "diagnostic" tools for evaluating access to finance for SMEs or exporters.

Objectives of the internship

This internship offers a suitable candidate the chance to understand and play a role in the delivery strategic planning for trade and export development. The candidate will gain an important insight into trade performance, export development issues, value chain diagnostics and strategic planning.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the overall guidance of the nominated Adviser, RSE, the intern will undertake the following tasks:

- Conduct desk-based research and analysis of topical and emerging themes relevant to export development and competitiveness. Make recommendations on areas that the country/sector may address to improve export development impact and effectiveness.
- Contribute to preparation and execution of trade and export performance analyses using Trade map, WITS, WDI and other databases.
- Assist in the elaboration of sector strategies, including mapping and diagnostics of value-chains. Part of the value chain diagnostics will include financial solutions for SMEs and exporters.
- Contribute to the preparation of presentations and related material for in-country consultations.
- Contribute to the analytical framework and processes required to elaborate a high quality NES.
- Undertake activities as required of a similar nature related to ITC's forthcoming strategy development interventions.

Qualifications and capabilities

The successful internship candidate should have:

- Be enrolled in the final academic year of the first university degree programme (minimum Bachelor's level or equivalent); or
- Be enrolled in a graduate school programme (second university degree or equivalent, or higher); or
- Have graduated with a university degree (as defined in (a) and (b) above), and, if selected must commence the internship within one (1) year of graduation,
- Be a citizen of the People's Republic of China,
- Have a relevant academic background in international studies, business administration, international development, international law and/or economics with experience of conducting research assignments.

Languages and skills

- Applicants should have working knowledge of English;
- Knowledge of, and interest in, international trade policy and relations, business development issues and export development in developing countries. Knowledge of market access issues, economic analyses, and trade statistics will be considered an asset.
- Experience in analysing and organising research results into structured and referenced reports.
- Knowledge of Global Value Chains dynamics.
- Ability to work independently, with minimal guidance and support, to reach defined objectives.
- Ability to conduct research and write reports in English.
- Be competent using standard office and research tools. Good knowledge of excel and graphic software will be considered important assets

Training Components and Learning Elements

- Gain meaningful work experience in the area of trade-related technical assistance aimed to expand their academic, professional and personal learning;
- Gain experience in the work of ITC and deepen knowledge and understanding of ITC's goals, mission and their concrete implementation;
- Gain experience in preparation of presentations and related material for in-country consultations.
- Gain experience in analytical framework and processes required to elaborate a high quality NES.

On completion of the assignment, the Intern is expected to:

- Have acquired a clear understanding of basic trade analysis, mapping and diagnostics of value-chains and TISI mapping.
- Be able to contribute to export performance analysis