



JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY

Faculty Call for Research Assistant Application

Part I – Outline of research project

Academic field: Economics

Research topic: The MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme

Brief description of project and research assistant duties:

Our research aims to examine competitiveness of MENA countries

The MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme is the economic pillar of the wider MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness for Development. Its activities are organised around six, mutually-reinforcing workstreams:

1. Business Integrity
2. Economic Resilience
3. Investment & Trade
4. Public-Private Dialogue
5. SMEs & Entrepreneurship
6. Women's Economic Empowerment

Since 2005, more than thirty flagship reviews and hundreds of capacity-building events have translated these themes into concrete reforms, from updated FDI laws in Jordan to SME-finance diagnostics across North Africa. The Programme's reliance on OECD evidence standards makes it an ideal playground for a capstone involving students of econometrics. The research will be developed in co-partnership with the OECD, in particular with the Dr. Raffaele Trapasso, Senior Advisor, MENA Competitiveness Programme - Middle East and Africa Division Global Relations and Co-operation at the OECD

Sponsoring professor: Sergio Scicchitano

Professor's e-mail address: sergio.scicchitano@johncabot.edu

Semester of assistantship: Fall 2025



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Part II – Mentoring plan

Full description of research assistant's regular duties:

Data entry, data analysis, assistance in writing policy briefs (under supervision)

Description of the work to be completed by the end of the research assistant's 45 hours of work:

Brief reports about the findings that will be generated

Statement addressing how the faculty research will help the student research assistant develop their research skills:

The student will be involved in data analysis for business, economics, and policy. The student will be involved in writing drafts of empirical academic paper and empirical policy brief.