

APPLIED RESEARCH SPECIALIST



Introduction

The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) is a member-based international organisation founded in November 2009. The organisation serves as a platform to improve tax administration and revenue collection in Africa, by supporting the tax administrations of its member countries. ATAF, whose Secretariat is situated in Pretoria, South Africa, currently counts 45 African countries as members.



Role

The Specialist: Applied Research and Statistics is responsible for undertaking high-quality applied research, statistical analysis, econometric modelling, tax analytics and evidence-based policy analysis to support domestic revenue mobilisation and tax administration reform across ATAF member countries. The role contributes to the generation of actionable insights through qualitative and quantitative research, tax surveys, tax statistics, revenue forecasting, tax gap analysis, impact evaluations and comparative studies. The Specialist supports the development of ATAF flagship publications, technical assistance programmes, capacity-building initiatives and knowledge products that strengthen tax administration effectiveness and revenue performance across Africa.



Duties & Responsibilities

- ✓ Lead and deliver high-quality applied research and analytical insights on tax policy, administration, and revenue mobilisation.
- ✓ Develop robust research methodologies, frameworks, and data collection tools to support evidence-based decision-making.
- ✓ Apply advanced data analytics and econometric modelling to generate forecasts, identify trends, and inform strategic policy direction.
- ✓ Produce clear, concise, and impactful knowledge products, including reports, policy briefs, and technical publications.
- ✓ Drive impact evaluations of tax reforms, providing actionable recommendations to enhance effectiveness and sustainability.
- ✓ Deliver technical advisory support, capacity-building initiatives, and stakeholder presentations across diverse audiences.
- ✓ Lead the collection, validation, analysis and publication of ATAF tax administration statistics and benchmarking indicators. Contribute to planning, budgeting, reporting, operational risk management and compliance with organisational policies and donor requirements.
- ✓ Establish and maintain productive collaborations with tax administrations, development partners, research institutions and international organisations.
- ✓ Uphold strong research governance, quality assurance, and collaboration with internal teams, partners, and stakeholders to achieve organisational objectives.



Desired Experience & Qualification



Qualifications

- ✓ Master's Degree (ISCED 7 or higher) in Economics, Statistics, Econometrics, Public Finance, Taxation, Tax Law, Development Economics, Data Science or a related field.
- ✓ PhD or MPhil in a relevant discipline will be an added advantage.



Experience

- ✓ Minimum 5 years' experience in applied research, statistics, economics, taxation, public policy or related fields.
- ✓ Demonstrated experience conducting quantitative and qualitative research.
- ✓ Experience in statistical analysis, econometric modelling and data analytics.
- ✓ Experience managing or contributing to multi-country research projects.
- ✓ Demonstrated publication record including peer-reviewed journal articles, working papers, policy papers, technical reports or major research publications relevant to taxation, economics, public finance or development. Experience working with tax administrations, government institutions, international organisations or development partners will be an added advantage.
- ✓ Demonstrated proficiency in statistical and analytical software such as R, Python, STATA, SPSS, SQL and Power BI. Experience applying statistical, econometric, machine learning and data visualisation techniques using modern analytical tools.
- ✓ Ability to manage, analyse and visualise large and complex datasets from tax administrations and external data sources.



Language requirements

- ✓ Fluency in English is a requirement
- ✓ Ability to communicate in Portuguese, Arabic and / or French is an added advantage



Package & Remuneration

The position is full-time, based in Pretoria, South Africa, with a four-year renewable contract. Remuneration is competitive, commensurate with experience and aligned with the ATAF salary scale.



How to Apply

Pnet Link: [Click here](#)

Application Closing Date: **31 July 2026**