

Researcher Recruitment: Ecuador

VVOB: Rapid Cycle Evaluation

Background

The Research Base is an international research consultancy based in the United Kingdom. We provide research, market intelligence and evaluation services to a range of clients operating in the fields of education and skills, third sector/international development and business. Our clients consist of education providers, national and international charities, governments and multinational businesses. For further information, please visit: <http://www.theresearchbase.com>

We are currently carrying out an evaluation on behalf of the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) in Ecuador. VVOB is delivering the Skilling for Sustainable Tourism (2018-2021) programme in Ecuador in partnership with the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC). The programme focuses on upper secondary technical education (bachillerato técnico, BT) by enhancing the quality and reliance of two tourism-related BTs, ensuring that these courses are aligned with the skills needs of the travel and tourism industry.

Our role is to assess and measure the effectiveness and impact of the programme's early cycles for both direct and indirect beneficiaries. We require assistance from local researchers to conduct qualitative data collection in schools in Cantón Quito and the Province of Manabí.

Roles & Responsibilities

We require four local researchers for this evaluation, delivering interviews, focus groups and primary research in Ecuador. Face-to-face training will be provided to the selected researchers by The Research Base in the week commencing 22 October, 2018.

Researchers will then carry out interviews and focus groups with a range of stakeholders over a two year period, starting in November 2018 and with dates to be confirmed. The interviews and focus groups will seek to gain a qualitative perspective on the programme, obtaining perceptions of impact, as well as answers to questions around effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and sustainability.

Once trained and conducting interviews and focus groups, researchers will be required to report regularly to The Research Base, providing recordings of any interviews/focus groups and allowing any questions to be answered and issues to be raised. As well as being remunerated at competitive rates (see below), researchers will receive a letter of recommendation from The Research Base, following successful delivery of the project, to facilitate future employment.

Researcher Specification

As capacity development is a central part of this project, we aim to provide training and support to researchers who will benefit from early career experience and training opportunities. Training and support will be provided by The Research Base and this is an opportunity for trainee researchers to get hands-on experience of data collection and fieldwork. The table below clarifies the applicant requirements, including both essential and desirable criteria.

Local Researcher Criteria	
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University qualification. • Currently studying for or recently completed postgraduate qualification. • Experience in conducting qualitative interviews. • Experience in delivering reports written to a high standard. • An understanding of research ethics. • Fluency in English and relevant local language(s). • Access to a laptop or computer with internet access; and access to a recording device or suitable computer application with which to record interviews/focus groups. • Availability for the full period of the research.
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in undertaking monitoring and evaluation and education research, with a focus on teacher professional development and workplace learning. • Experience in translation of data from/into local languages from/into English. • Knowledge of the Ecuadorian tourism industry and higher education system. • Ability to demonstrate local knowledge and understanding. • Knowledge of the VVOB or other similar programmes in the development sector.

Remuneration

Researchers will be remunerated at GBP £75 per day. Each day is equal to eight hours and a total of 15.5 days will be required from each researcher (a total of 54 days across all cycle evaluations from 2018-2020 plus a two-day training programme). This will comprise:

- Two full days (eight hours each) the week commencing 22 October, 2018 for training.
- 13.5 days (108 hours) for data collection in months November-December 2018, May-June 2019, October-November 2019, May-June 2020 and October-November 2020.

Researchers will be required to generate an invoice on completion of the data collection and provision of acceptable data following each project cycle. Invoice templates will be provided and invoices will be paid by international bank transfer within 30 days of receipt.

To Apply

Please email your CV and a cover letter of no more than one page of A4 (both written in English), as well as the names and contact details of two referees - either at your university or from your previous employers, to info@theresearchbase.com by 21:00 BST on 9 October 2018.

Please also confirm in your application that you will have access to a laptop and recording device.

Selected researchers will be interviewed by Skype on 10th and 11th October 2018 and should, therefore, have access to an appropriate device on those days.