

J-PAL'S AFRICAN SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

Creating pathways for African researchers to drive the impact evaluation research agenda on the continent



Photo credit: Noeim Photography

Beyond the ethical imperative to increase the diversity of researchers in economics, bringing more voices into the field will lead to a richer body of evidence. Academics living and working in-country are more likely to develop locally grounded, quality projects with strong partner buy-in, and are well placed to ensure that findings from their research are used to influence policy decisions. To achieve this goal, J-PAL has created the African Scholars Program.

WHAT IS THE AFRICAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM?

The African Scholars Program provides funding and support to academics currently working in Africa or who are from Africa. To overcome the barriers that face African academics wanting to conduct randomized evaluations on the continent, the Program provides:



Funding

African researchers based at universities are eligible to apply for research funding from J-PAL initiatives running the Program. We provide three main categories of funding:

Proposal Development: up to \$15,000

Exploratory work related to preliminary research ideas

Pilot and Monitoring Systems: up to \$75,000

Clear research question, but design and implementation requires further testing

Full Randomized Evaluation: up to \$400,000

African Scholars who have successfully completed a pilot funded by J-PAL



Mentorship

Funded African Scholars are paired with J-PAL affiliated researchers in a mentorship relationship which allows Scholars to drive their research while receiving support and guidance from researchers with expertise in randomized evaluations.



Training, resources and staff support

Staff and J-PAL affiliates run training courses, webinars and idea incubation workshops to build skills in randomized evaluation and support Scholars in taking their projects to the next level.

WHO DO WE FUND?



Resident African Scholars

Those who have completed a PhD in Economics or a related field, and are based at an academic institution in Africa.



Non-Resident African Scholars

Those who completed high school in Africa, completed their PhD in Economics or a related field, and are based at an academic institution outside of Africa.

Note: Only 1 member of the research team needs to meet this definition.

For more information on J-PAL's African Scholars Programs, scan the QR code.

