

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Information Interview with Economics Associate in Health Service Delivery:

Personal Work Experience: BSc in Health Science; Internships in M&E Department at an HIV charity and in the Global Health Department at a foreign policy-focused think tank (USA); Political organizing role on a US Senate campaign; Projects manager role at a public health research company (USA); Intermittent consulting projects (Kenya + Ecuador); MSc in Public Health (General stream); Upon graduating, took up consultancy role with a start-up global LGBTQI rights charity (UK); currently an Economics Associate in Health Service Delivery with CHAI (Swaziland)

Average day in the job: Largely dependent on project – could be doing anything from building a costing model in Excel to make the case for Swaziland to prioritize investment in cervical cancer screening services to meeting with leadership at national hospitals to strategize quality improvement initiatives. Right now, most of my work focuses on improving essential resource availability for an 'Essential Health Care Package' defined by the Ministry of Health. This involves working with clinics and hospitals around the country to improve internal inefficiencies and identify and address central-level bottlenecks in the procurement process.

General pieces of advice: Most valuable thing from time at LSHTM was the people who I met and learned from the most during my time at LSHTM. Also, the reputation of the school is world-renowned, which may have contributed to my hiring at CHAI.

“Cast a wide net, be persistent, and take every opportunity that presents itself (especially if you're just starting out).” You may not land your dream job right away, but any experience is better than nothing. What's important is constantly building skills and experience that will prepare you to excel in the future.

CHAI

“CHAI serves local ministries of health in developing settings to find analytic, data-driven solutions to global health challenges.”

Skills considered most valuable in current role are general analytics, advanced Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, and especially Excel), and stakeholder engagement/relationship management as well as the ability to think creatively about ways to overcome barriers to achieving objectives.

Job opportunities are generally on a rolling basis, so check the CHAI jobs board frequently for the most recent opportunities. Typically, entry-level roles require at least 2 years of work experience. CHAI has country offices around the world, though, and each is a bit different. Many offices periodically offer volunteer contracts, which are cost-neutral (i.e., accommodation, transportation, and a small living stipend are provided), and this is a common route 'in', providing opportunities for moving up into analyst or associate roles after gaining some organizational experience.

The ideal candidate would be comfortable working autonomously, thinking outside of the box, and generally being proactive in chasing down opportunities to move the mission forward. Many CHAI employees come from management consulting, so if a client-oriented and self-starting environment is preferred, this place will likely be a good fit. Any job experience which requires analytical thinking and involves the use of data is a big plus, especially if the work taught you how to be a wiz at Excel. Also, CHAI values people who work quickly and efficiently, so if you have some experience in the private sector that could be seen as a plus. My previous job was at a public health research company. I found the combination of research with a client-oriented approach to be a big plus in preparing me to work for CHAI.

Headquartered in New York with operations in 33 countries.

Website: <http://www.clintonhealthaccess.org/jobs/>

Speculative applications/CVs not welcome; see website for current job postings.