**Graduate Research Assistant for ASPIRE (Fall 2022)**

The ASPIRE project is seeking a grad RA (50% time) for the fall of 2022 to assist in data analysis and content preparation for presentations and reports related to the project’s innovation ecosystem diagnostic and related ecosystem component diagnostics, including culture, systems, and processes.

**About ASPIRE**

ASPIRE (Achieving Sustainable Partnerships for Innovation, Research, and Entrepreneurship) is a joint project between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US and Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG), and the Asociación Guatemalteca de Exportadores (AGEXPORT) in Guatemala. This project is leveraging existing assets to expand the innovation, research, and entrepreneurship capacity of UVG and more broadly, of higher education institutions in Latin America to address development challenges. This five-year, $15 million project is funded by USAID through their BRIDGE-Train program.

ASPIRE Project Objectives:

1. Training: Strengthen capacity for training in applied research, inclusive innovation, and entrepreneurship for regional and local development; develop a model for training in these topics;
2. Research and Innovation: Strengthen capacities to produce high-quality research and entrepreneurship focused on addressing local and regional development priorities; strengthen UVG’s innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem
3. Partnership, Research Translation, and Uptake: Create collaborations that ensure the practical use of university research and innovation; position university entrepreneurs to succeed in the broader innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem
4. Culture and Systems: Create an environment at UVG that is supportive of innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer; strengthen a culture of local innovation

ASPIRE Diagnostics:

ASPIRE is conducting a set of diagnostics of UVG’ existing activities and systems that relate to the project’s capacity strengthening goals. These diagnostics cover topics including the overall innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem at UVG, the research system and existing capacity for producing high-quality, development-oriented research, UVG’s capacity for and current practices around research translation, training, curricular and extracurricular activities, engagement with marginalized groups, and the culture, systems, and processes required to support development-oriented research, innovation, innovation-driven entrepreneurship, and research translation.

**Responsibilities:**

* Data analysis
  + Code subsets of data related to key topics within the innovation ecosystem diagnostic and culture, systems, and processes diagnostic using existing codes and open coding
  + Update coding and analysis performed on data from Phase 1 and 2 with Phase 3 data as it becomes available
  + Query coded data for specific topics; generate findings from queried data
  + Review existing data analysis performed by members of the research team and flag inconsistencies, errors, or areas that need to be addressed; bring these to the research supervisors (ASPIRE co-PIs leading the diagnostics, Elizabeth Hoffecker and Kendra Leith)
  + Contribute to the continued development and refinement of the code tree
* Production of findings
  + Generate findings from specific batches of coded data; prepare syntheses and summaries of findings to inform final presentations and reports in English and preferably also in Spanish
* Identification of source materials
  + As needed, identify and obtain additional information (documents, reports, administrative data, curricular material, etc.) related to the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems at UVG and at MIT.

**Required Qualifications**

* **Qualitative research skills:** Undergraduate degree and/or graduate-level training in anthropology, sociology, and/or qualitative social science research methods; experience coding and analyzing qualitative data and familiarity using one or more qualitative data analysis programs is required.
* **Communication skills:** Demonstrated ability to summarize the results of data analysis and produce well-organized content briefs as inputs to reports and/or presentations; Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interact professionally with a culturally diverse community, academic, and private sector partners.
* **Spanish language skills:** Proficiency in reading Spanish-language text and the ability to code and analyze text in Spanish, including qualitative interview data and content from reports, field notes, and other written documents.
* **Project management skills**: Strong project management skills are required, including the ability to work independently and take initiative as well as the ability to coordinate effectively with other members of the project team, including Spanish-speaking undergraduate students in anthropology at UVG.

**Preferred Qualifications**

* Familiarity with Dedoose;
* Prior exposure to and/or strong interest in Guatemalan or Central American culture, economic and social development, and/or higher education-focused capacity building.
* Prior exposure to and interest in research related to innovation and/or entrepreneurial ecosystems; familiarity with ecosystem concepts.

**To apply:**

To be considered for this position, please email a current CV and brief expression of interest (under 1 page) to Elizabeth Hoffecker at [ehm@mit.edu](mailto:ehm@mit.edu) prior to 5pm on August 31, 2022.