



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: J-PAL AFRICA
SOUTHERN AFRICA LABOUR AND DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
UNIT (SALDRU)
SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
FACULTY OF COMMERCE

J-PAL Africa seeks an outstanding professional to be based in Cape Town to lead the organisation as Executive Director, providing strategic leadership and day-to-day management of all office operations and finances to advance its mission of reducing poverty through evidence-informed-policy on the continent. This senior position will be based at the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) in the University of Cape Town, School of Economics, which is the host for the Africa regional office of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).

J-PAL is a global research center working to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is informed by scientific evidence. J-PAL affiliated researchers and offices conduct randomised impact evaluations to answer critical questions in the fight against poverty. We collaborate with NGO, government, and private sector partners to translate research into action, informing scale-ups of programs and policies that have reached more than 800 million people since 2003.

This role provides an unparalleled opportunity to lead and manage the day-to-day operations of J-PAL Africa, one of the most influential organisations in the evidence-to-policy space on the continent. As a member of J-PAL's worldwide Board of Directors and Senior Leadership Team, the Executive Director also provides critical inputs into J-PAL's worldwide strategy and management.

For detailed information on this post, please view the job description on the following link: ([view](#))

To view and apply for this position, please visit the UCT Jobs site [View](#) (For Internal Applicants) and [View](#) (For external Applicants) to create a profile and to submit your application.

Closing date: 15 August 2025

Reference:

ID 1128

UCT is a designated employer and is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets in accordance with the Employment Equity Plan of the University and its Employment Equity goals and targets. Preference will be given to candidates from the under-represented designated groups. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at www.hr.uct.ac.za/hr/policies/employ_equity

When you apply for a position at UCT, we collect your personal information to assess your application, communicate with you, and coordinate interview logistics. Information such as race, gender, nationality, and disability status is used to support our Employment Equity obligations. We also verify your references, qualifications, conduct criminal and, for certain roles, credit checks. For more information about how the University of Cape Town uses personal information and your rights, please email popia@uct.ac.za.

The University reserves the right to extend the closing date for applications if deemed necessary and reserves the right to make no appointment.