



CHINA WTO ACCESSION INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME ALUMNI STORY

please tell us...



Where are you from, and what have you studied before joining the China Programme?

I am from Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso. Before joining the China Programme, I earned my bachelor's degree in statistics from the Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Economique - Pierre Ndiaye (ENSAE-PN) in Dakar, Senegal. I then specialized in Econometrics and Applied Statistics for my master's degree at Université d'Orléans, France. Just before starting this internship program, I completed my master's thesis internship at Société Générale in Paris, France, where I worked on issues related to model risk management in credit risk modeling.

Why did you apply?

My interest in this program stemmed from an initial experience I had as an individual contractor within the African Trade Observatory team of the International Trade Centre during the summer break of my first year of master's studies in 2022. During this experience, I primarily worked on the quality of customs data, which was used to calculate relevant and essential indicators for decision-making on African international trade issues. I quickly understood the important role a statistician can play in the exploitation of data in international trade. Consequently, I wanted to specialize in international trade statistics. This internship program appeared as the best opportunity to join an institution that provides a comprehensive view of international trade issues. It would allow me to gain theoretical knowledge to complement my purely quantitative background, enabling me to become a high-value-added statistician.

What kind of work were you assigned to during your internship?

I worked primarily under the Trade for Peace program. Due to my quantitative background, I focused mainly on the empirical assessment of trade and peace nexus. I contributed to a study that aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of how international trade



influences peace at various levels by specifically investigating the impact of trade openness on both the Positive Peace Index (PPI) and the Global Peace Index (GPI).

Looking back, what do you think of your work experience at the WTO, and as participant of the China Programme?

This internship program was a unique and valuable opportunity for me to gain professional experience on trade-related issues within the World Trade Organization (WTO). Beyond the purely statistical and econometric work I performed, I was able to acquire a useful understanding of the complexities of the WTO accession process, as well as enhance my communication, teamwork, and drafting skills. Additionally, I had the opportunity to be involved in the latest Working Parties meetings on the accession of Timor-Leste and Comoros to the WTO. Given the international environment at the WTO, I also met many interesting people from different nationalities and expanded my professional network.

What have you done since?

Since completing my internship, I have joined the International Trade Centre as a consultant-statistician. My responsibilities include data preparation, reporting, trade competitiveness indicator computation, data quality assessment, training, workshop logistics coordination, and communication and presentation. I'm contributing to various programs such as the West African Competitiveness Program (WACOMP), the East African Community Market Access Upgrade (EAC MARKUP II), and the African Trade Observatory (ATO).

Thank you!
