

Akinyemi Christopher Afolabi

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Education

Western Michigan University, Michigan, USA

Aug 2024 – May 2026

M.A. in Applied Economics (Statistics and Econometrics)

GPA: 4.0/4.0

- Awarded the Floyd Moore Award for outstanding MA student

Pan African University, Cameroon

Apr 2022 – Mar 2024

M.A. in Governance and Regional Integration

GPA: 3.77/4.0

- Fully funded scholarship for top African Students
- Awarded the PAU Research Grant

University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

Sep 2013 – Sep 2017

Bachelor of Science in Economics

GPA: 4.61/5.0

- Awarded the overall Best Student (Department and Faculty)
- Won the University Scholarship Awarded

Coursework in Mathematics, Statistics and Graduate Level Economics

Mathematics for Economists (Western Michigan University and University of Ilorin): Differential and Integral Calculus, Multivariable Calculus, Differential Equations, Vector Calculus, Optimization, Matrix Algebra

Statistics: Probability and Probability Distribution, Random Variables, Sampling Distribution, Estimations, Hypothesis Testing, Linear Models, Resampling Methods: Bootstraps and Jackknife

Master's Level Economics: Microeconomic Theory, Macroeconomic Theory, Econometrics, Development Economics

Research Interest

Primary: Environmental Economics, Macroeconomics, Financial Economics, International Economics, Labor Economics

Secondary: Development Economics, Public Policy, Applied Econometrics.

Research Experience

Western Michigan University, USA

2025 - Present

Research Assistant to Dr. Rodrigo Aranda

- Automated the extraction of over 21,000 data files (100 replications across 210 Designated Market Areas) from Google Trends using Python and R and implementing strategies to overcome API rate limitations.
- Reviewed Literatures focused on causal inference and google trends.
- Replicated the result of another top quality paper on high school sport participation in United States.
- Learning about latest causal inference methods (Difference in Difference)

Pan African University, Cameroon

2023-2024

Research Assistant to Dr. Ndamsa Dickson

- Analyzed the Impact of trade integration on poverty reduction in ECOWAS Countries.
- Gathered data on different ECOWAS countries.
- Reviewed literature on trade integration in West Africa to identify gaps.
- Produced a Master's Thesis for presentation and publishing in Journals

Partnerships Portfolio Management Intern

- Conducted research on donors' aid policies, practices, and budget allocations.
- Collected and analyzed data on development cooperation priorities of OECD-DAC donors to UNDP.
- Drafted Latvia country profile and Briefing Note for BERA Director.
- Analysis of OECD-DAC development funding trends.
- Provided support in conducting research and analysis on selected topics/donors as required.
- Assisted in the Planning and Organizing the Norway and Denmark Strategic Dialogue 2023.
- Developed visually effective PowerPoint presentations.
- Identifying potential and emerging funding sources for UNDP to leverage.
- Partner Intelligence Updates on UNDP's UNITY Platform.
- Participated in the UNDP Mentorship Programme

University of Ilorin, Nigeria

2021-2023

Research Assistant to Dr. Ojuolape M.A.

- Worked on the effect of Oil Prices on the economic growth of oil-producing countries.
- Reviewed literature on Oil prices and economic growth to identify gaps.
- Produced a research article published in double-blind review Journal

University of Ilorin, Nigeria.

2016-2017

Under the Supervision of Prof. Gafar T. Ijaiya

- Collected primary data on Students' expenditure on internet infrastructure.
- Reviewed literature on students' expenditure and internet infrastructure to identify gaps.
- Data collection using Questionnaire
- Performed cross-sectional analysis using Stata.
- Produced an undergraduate research writing.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- **Afolabi, A. C., & Ndamsa, D. T.** (2025). Revisiting the impact of trade integration on poverty reduction in ECOWAS: A panel quantile regression analysis. *The Journal of International Trade & Economic Development*, 1–28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638199.2025.2459912>
- Kuranga A.O., **Afolabi A.C.**, Jimoh M. M., Ojuolape M. A. (2025). Public Debt Dynamics and Exchange Rate in Nigeria. *Sri Lankan Journal of Business Economics*, 50-70. <https://doi.org/10.31357/sljb.v14.8390>
- **Afolabi, A.C & Ndamsa, D. T.** (2024). The Impact of Trade Integration on Poverty Reduction in ECOWAS. *Journal of Developing Economies*, 9(2), 303-324. <https://doi.org/10.20473/jde.v9i2.49398>
- **Afolabi, A.C.**, Kuranga, A.O., Ojuolape, M.A. and Yusuf, H.A (2023). Oil Prices and Economic Growth in Oil Producing Countries: A Panel Data Approach. *Chiang Mai University Journal of Economics*, 59-79. <https://so01.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/CMJE/article/view/263225>

Research: Work in Progress

- **Afolabi, A. C. & Lajuwomi, O.O** (2025). Exchange Rate and its Effects on Living Condition of Nigerians (Under Review for Publication).

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2025: ECON 4090 (Econometrics) —Teaching Assistant to Prof. Debasri Mukherjee
- Spring 2025: ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics) —Teaching Assistant to Prof. Debasri Mukherjee
- Fall 2024: ECON 3390 (Exploring Economic Data) —Teaching Assistant to Prof. Debasri Mukherjee
- Class Teacher, Economics: SSCOE Secondary School, Nigeria (2017-2018)
- Lead Tutor, Mathematics, Economics, and Statistics: Department of Economics, University of Ilorin, Nigeria (2015-2017).

Industry and Other Relevant Experience

Kalamazoo Literacy Council (KLC), MI, USA

May - July, 2025

EDISON Policy, Systems and Environmental Change (PSE) Project Manager Intern

- Conducted household surveys to assess potential trail users and inform data-driven community engagement strategies for building the Albert White Literacy Trail.
- Researched and analyzed both primary and secondary data to inform policy recommendations and support grant applications for the trail.
- Led focus group discussions with local residents to shape the design and features of the Albert White Literacy Trail.
- Planned and executed “Build Day,” successfully installing a community reading corner with Wi-Fi, charging ports, and Bluetooth speakers and also installed free little library.
- Authored a comprehensive EDISON project report detailing achievements, stakeholder contributions, and community impact, approved for publication by leadership because of its quality.
- Supported monthly Edison Resident Scholar meetings and participated in weekly planning sessions with project teams.

Ministry of External Relations, Department of Americas & Caribbeans, Cameroon

Feb - Apr 2023

Diplomat Intern

- Conduct research on political, economic, and social events in American and Caribbean countries.
- Draft reports, briefs, memos, and Explanatory Notes for the Minister.
- Worked on the African Ancestry visitation to Cameroon
- Provide administrative support, including maintaining files and handling correspondences.
- Participated in the Ministry’s activities, such as cultural exchanges and public diplomacy events like Commonwealth Day and the launch of the Commonwealth Enterprise Regional Hub
- Created and authored a comprehensive internship report highlighting key learnings, experiences, and contributions during the internship.

Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, Nigeria

Feb 2019 - May 2021

Commercial Relationship Officer (Kwara)

- Marketed and sold commercial banking products, resulting in over 450m naira in deposits and over 60m in risk assets generated.
- Maintained and improved relationships with corporate customers.
- Demonstrated expertise in credit and financial analysis.
- Onboarded new and profitable customers and facilitated their access to E-channels.
- Underwent comprehensive training to develop a deep understanding of the banking industry and the bank’s credit policy.
- Prepared and delivered credit presentations to executives.

Gifted Analysts, Nigeria

Jan 2019 - Jul 2020

Data Analyst Tutor

- Conducted data analysis training for a team of 50 students, focusing on Microsoft Excel.
- Developed and prepared training materials, presentations, and exercises specific to Microsoft Excel.
- Conducted interactive training sessions where students could apply their learning directly in Microsoft Excel.

Honors, Scholarships and Awards

- Floyd Moore Awards, Department of Economics, Western Michigan University
- Western Michigan University Fully Funded Graduate Teaching Assistantship
- Pan African University Research Grant, 2024
- Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN) Mentee, 2023.
- Pan African University Scholarship, 2022.
- ICAN Diamond Scholarship, 2019.
- University of Ilorin Undergraduate Merit Scholarship Award, 2015-2017.
- Overall Best Student, Department of Economics, University of Ilorin, 2017.
- Overall Best Student, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ilorin, 2017.

Membership

- American Economic Association (AEA)
- National Association for Business Economics (NABE)
- Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM)

Skills

- **Statistical Tools:** R, E-views, STATA, SPSS, Microsoft Excel, Python.
- **Data Scrapping:** R and Python.
- **Other Tools:** LaTeX, PowerPoint, Word, Camtasia Video Editing.
- **Extracurricular:** Blogging, Soccer.

Languages

- English (full proficiency), French (basic proficiency) , Yoruba (Native)