Proposal for an economic research for students at the third or fourth year of a bachelor degree in economics at University of Ottawa

Below is a proposal for an undergraduate candidate pursuing a degree in economics that has the minimum research skills of conducting literature review and making projection of a sector economy.

Project Title
Sector Analysis of Non-Prescription Drugs of Canada

Background
With the rapid development of internet use in daily lives of Canadians, and the growing proportion of the population into the senior citizen category, and domestic policy of promoting innovation by the government, these factors contribute and accelerate the development of the pharmaceutical industry, in particular, the non-prescription drugs industry, in Canada.

Purpose
The purpose of the project is to conduct a research on the sector development of non-prescription drugs (commonly known as the over-the-counter (OTC) drugs) in Canada in past 10-15 years, and forecast the development trend of the sector economy in next 5-10 years.

Tasks
The candidate will conduct a desk research on the size of the industry, its link to the socio-demographic characteristics of the Canadian population, and the projected development in next 5-10 years. In particular, the project would focus on how the sector would develop under the current policy without any government intervention. The student will write a literature review using published data by CIHI, Statistics Canada, Industry Canada, related associations and academic articles documenting past production and market trends of the sector. Using numeric data available from these websites, the student will do a forecast of the demand of the sector.

Deliverables
The deliverables would include a report with two major sections: (i) a review of the literature that will describe the sector, the sector demand in past 10-15 years; and (ii) develop econometric models which will show the demand of non-prescription drug using selected socio-demographic variables of the country in past 10-15 years and forecast of the demand of the industry in next 5-10 years.

Work Plan and Timeline
The candidate will meet with the supervisor at least 4 times during the course of the project:

- To discuss the purpose and scope of the project
- To finalize the tasks list and the table of contents of the report
- To review the results of analysis and the draft chapter on the review of the literature
- To review the final report

The candidate could keep in touch with the supervisor during the period of the course of the project and request assistance or guidance based on needs.

The candidate will submit the final report before the study week for the semester examination.

**Minimum requirements**

The candidate must possess basic skills in conducting desk research; compiling information and summarizing research findings into a written report. The candidate knows econometrics and modelling and must have basic statistical knowledge to identify significant models from data of past years and generate models that have good fits to forecast future sector demand in Canada.

**Benefits of working on the project**

The candidate will learn how to use existing information to understand the demand of a sector, its development, and how it is linked to domestic and international parameters, and how to apply econometrics to forecast future sector demand.

*Interested candidates, please contact:*

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