



Curriculum Vitae

Laura Mertsching

Project Manager

Overseas Development Institute

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KEY PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

Laura Mertsching is an experienced project and financial manager in the international development sector. Key professional strengths are the development of strategies and tools to deliver complex global research projects and their financial management. She is a reliable programme manager with a strong track record in capacity planning, monitoring team portfolios and improving management efficiencies. Her academic background is in political science and thematic interests include conflict studies with emphasis on behavioural research and state stability, as well as issues of gender equality, social justice and environmental challenges.

QUALIFICATIONS

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| 2015 | MSc Conflict Studies
London School of Economics and Political Science, UK |
| 2012 | BA Political Science and Educational Science
Heidelberg University, Germany |

POSTS HELD

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| Since 2017 | Overseas Development Institute , London, UK |
| 2020 - Present | Project Manager for the Humanitarian Policy Group |
| 2019 - 2020 | Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Programme Manager |
| 2019 | Project Manager for Access Integration, new Finance and Programme Management System (Interim Position) |
| 2018 – 2019 | Research and Policy in Development (RAPID) Programme Manager |
| 2017 – 2018 | Programme Officer for the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (SLRC) and the Social Protection and Social Policy Programme |
| 2016 – 2017 | Project Management Officer
Coram International at Coram Children’s Legal Centre, London, UK |
| 2015 – 2016 | Research and Executive Officer
The Thomas Coram Foundation, London, UK |

- 2014 – 2015** **Administration Assistant** (part-time) for financial advisors
Lepretre & Partners Ltd., London, UK
- 2013** **Secretary** at Europe-wide operating construction company
Montagebau Mertsching GmbH, Rettchensdorf, Germany
- 2012** **Corporate Internship** at Construction and Expansion Department
Scandinavian Headquarters of Deichman Sko, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2011** **Student Internship**
Federal Foreign Office, German Embassy London, UK
- 2010** **Student Internship**
Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Berlin, Germany

SELECTED EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS

- **Project management** of international donor contracts including contractual compliance and processing, monitoring of progress against workplans and deadlines, and stakeholder communication
- **Financial management** of large international projects funded by DFID, Home Office and EC including monitoring project budgets, financial administration and donor reporting
- **Programme management** including financial management, monitoring progress against annual targets, capacity planning and organisational support
- **International logistical support** of events, workshops and conferences, organisation of international travel and safety assessments
- Identification of **fundraising** opportunities and preparation of bid applications including tailoring technical documentation, drafting and negotiating budgets
- **Research assistance** including qualitative analysis, data evaluation and visualisation, drafting of reports, compiling of surveys and presentations as well as proofreading
- **Profound IT knowledge** including Microsoft Office, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook)
- Advanced use of **online communication tools** (e.g. MS Teams, Skype, Trello, Dropbox) and creating content for **social media and websites** (using Wordpress and Drupal)
- **Languages:** native German, fluent English and basic French and Spanish

SELECTED PUBLICATION

- 2017 Anderson, K., Barnes, R., Raoof, A., and Hamilton, C., with the assistance of Mertsching, L., Arndt, J., Frode, K., Benniche, S., and Papi K., (2017) *Situation Analysis of Children in Nauru*, UNICEF Pacific Island Countries Office (https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/07_Situation_Analysis_of_Children_Nauru.pdf).