Research Assistant Position

Looking for undergraduate RA for Professors Carmen M Reinhart (HKS) and Kenneth S Rogoff (FAS). We are updating a data base on black market or parallel exchange rates from an earlier database that ends in 2001 (used in a 2004 Quarterly Journal of Economic paper).

Many countries have strict capital controls so that the official published rate is very different from the true rate at which many transactions take place. Our thesis is that often the black market rate is a better guide to true monetary conditions than the official rate, and often a good predictor of the official. There is usually no single source book, but in some cases there might be academic papers using the data. In other cases data bases available on the internet, in news sources, or in IMF reports, etc.

No great experience required but definitely involves entrepreneurship to find these obscure data. Would be a maximum of ten hours per week at $15 an hour. If interested, please contact krogoft@harvard.edu