

Research Assistant Job Description – Spring Term 2022

An Affiliate of the Harvard University Department of Economics seeks a part-time Research Assistant (undergrad or master's level). The Research Assistant will work with Chika Okafor, a PhD Candidate in Economics at Harvard University and JD Graduate of Yale Law School. The R.A. will join ongoing projects to either:

1. Improve our understanding of the full cost of climate change on vulnerable populations
2. Discover how best to increase public support for environmental policies through the strategic framing of climate-related messaging
3. Promote social good through efforts at the intersection of law, economics, and public policy

The interests and background of the RA will determine which project(s) they support. **All of these projects will contribute to national and local efforts to promote social progress, aiming to engage in contemporary popular and policy conversations.** Project (1) will conduct research and analyze data using quasi-experimental techniques. Project (2) will design and launch an experiment to test the impact of different framing strategies on popular support for climate change action. Project (3) will perform various research endeavors and related support.

For project (2), the R.A. candidate should have experience in designing (or interest in learning how to design) experiments for an Economics audience. The primary programming language across projects is R, with potential supplemental work in Stata and oTree (for the experimental design). Experience in Microsoft Excel is required. Experience producing reproducible code with markdown, git, and LaTeX is preferred, but not required. Depending on the project, the position may entail performing background research, writing research funding proposals, proposing experimental design attributes, organizing logistics associated with the experiment launch, and conducting analysis of results. The R.A. may also do additional basic data analysis, such as descriptive statistics and simple regressions, as well as some data visualization.

The workload is approximately 5-10 hours per week during Spring 2022. As funding allows, there is the possibility of renewal for Summer 2022 and Fall 2022. The pay rate is commensurate with experience and degree program.

Given current public health crises, the desired location is remote. Access to Zoom Video Communications is required. Chika Okafor will be located in Harvard Square, Cambridge.

To apply, please send a cover letter, CV, and sample code (minimum 100 lines of an .R file) to Chika Okafor, Esq., at chikaokafor@g.harvard.edu. Especially if you do not have sample code, in your Cover Letter please emphasize the skillset that you bring.