

EPIC Pre-Doctoral Fellowships

The Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC) invites applications for full-time pre-doctoral fellows for the academic year 2020-21. An interdisciplinary research and training center at the University of Chicago, EPIC is contributing innovative solutions to the global energy challenge: how can we ensure that people around the world, today and in the future, have access to reliable, affordable energy needed for human development without putting our health, environment and climate at risk? Previous results from EPIC projects have been influential with policymakers worldwide and featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and other leading publications.

The [Climate Impact Lab's](#) team of economists, climate scientists, data engineers, and risk analysts are building the world's most comprehensive body of research quantifying the impacts of climate change sector-by-sector, community-by-community around the world. This research will allow decision-makers in the public and private sectors to understand the risks climate change presents and mitigate those risks through smarter investments and public policy. The research will also produce the world's first empirically-derived estimate of the social cost of carbon — the cost to society from each ton of carbon dioxide emitted. This figure can serve as the basis for energy and climate policies.

Successful candidates will work with the [Climate Impact Lab](#) under the direction of Michael Greenstone. Responsibilities span all stages of research, including managing projects, collecting and analyzing data, creating presentations, and editing manuscripts. Typical research projects involve the analysis of environmental and energy data from the United States, India, China, and other countries utilizing quasi-experimental and experimental methods, as well as development of computational economic models of energy markets. In addition to working closely with faculty as research assistants, pre-doctoral fellows typically attend classes and seminars at EPIC, the University of Chicago, and affiliate institutions.

The program is intended to serve as a bridge between college and graduate school for students interested in empirical economics. People in this or similar positions have gone on to Economics Ph.D. programs at Harvard, MIT, University of Chicago, University of California, Berkeley, and similar schools upon completion of this program.

Applications for the fellowship are reviewed in fall and winter cycles. The fall deadline is October 6th, with final decisions made around November 25th. The winter deadline is January 6th, with final decisions made around March 1st. To apply, please visit <https://www.epicpredoctoralfellowship.com>.

Applicants must have completed a Bachelors or Master's degree by June 2020 and have strong quantitative and programming skills. Candidates with research experience are strongly preferred, especially those with experience in Stata, R, Python or Matlab. The ideal candidate would begin in summer or fall 2020 and work for EPIC for one or two years before applying to graduate school in Economics or another quantitative social science. EPIC offers competitive salary and employee benefits.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do you offer visa sponsorship for international applicants?

Yes, EPIC sponsors work or student visas.

2. Are there any specific requirements for the writing sample?

There are no requirements for the length or topic of your writing sample. Many successful applicants submit economics research papers (e.g. a thesis, or term paper) that highlight their abilities in writing and empirical analysis.

3. What kind of applicant does EPIC look for?

Successful applicants have typically completed advanced coursework with high marks in economics, math, statistics, or computer science. Many pre-doctoral fellows have had past economics research experience at their university, or other research institutions such as the Federal Reserve, World Bank, J-PAL, or IMF. A demonstrated interest in energy and environmental economics is helpful, but not necessary.

4. Does EPIC offer summer research opportunities?

EPIC offers summer research fellowships to 2-3 undergraduates each year. Recruiting for summer fellows will begin in Spring 2020.