



Policy and Research Assistant (Undergraduates)

Overview

Opportunity Insights (previously the Equality of Opportunity Project) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit primarily conducting rigorous, scientific research that harnesses the power of “big data” using an interdisciplinary approach. Located at Harvard University, Opportunity Insights disseminates research beyond academia to develop scalable policy solutions and train the next generation of social scientists to study poverty and opportunity.

In collaboration with local stakeholders and policymakers across the country, our Policy team translates our research findings into interventions that improve adult outcomes for economically disadvantaged children – and expand the knowledge base of what factors ensure that everyone has an equal shot at achieving the American Dream.

Policy and Research Assistant positions

The Opportunity Insights Policy team seeks **three** Policy and Research Assistants for the Spring 2019 semester (January 28-May 1) to assist our policy team approximately **7-10 hours** a week. Assistants will have the opportunity to support projects focused on a number of policy areas, including city and state economic mobility policies, housing policy, and social capital, opportunity, and social integration.

Specific tasks may include:

- Exploration of our [Opportunity Atlas](#), a tool that shows how mobility varies at the neighborhood level for given populations, with the goal of identifying cities and neighborhoods where opportunity patterns are unexpected, interesting, or particularly promising for future research or policy engagement
- Automating how the group produces statistical and graphical analyses of the geography of opportunity at the local level
- Qualitative research on the opportunity structure of certain communities and local programs that provide support for low-income children and families
- Statistical analysis of local administrative data to assess where, for whom, and when barriers to upward mobility arise
- Compiling academic research on topics of policy relevance, such as early reading programs and public health interventions
- Assisting with administrative tasks, including facilitating interactions with local partners and organizing events

Candidates may be sophomores, juniors, or seniors, and will ideally have some background in **economics, public policy, or computer science**. Experience with **GIS, R, or Python** is a plus.

Assistants will be paid \$15/hour, and we will accept students eligible for work study. Assistants will have the opportunity to continue to future semesters. For the Spring 2019 semester assistants, there is also the possibility of beginning before January 28 if schedules allow. Interested candidates should submit a resume and a cover letter by November 22, 2019 to policy@opportunityinsights.org. Applicants will be notified of their status by the end of 2019.