



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 **1-2** Policy and Research Assistants for the Summer 2019 semester (June 10-August 9) to assist our policy team **part-time** (7-10 hours/week) or **full-time** (up to 30 hours/week). Assistants will support projects focused on higher education policy, access to affordable housing, city and state economic mobility plans, increasing social capital, and a range of other place-focused strategies. Our work has a broad focus on racial equity that cuts across these policy areas.

Specific tasks may include:

- Automating how the group produces statistical and graphical analyses of the geography of opportunity at the local level
- Producing dashboards and short policy reports and blog posts that communicate technical research findings to non-technical audiences in the public and non-profit sector.
- Conducting qualitative research on the opportunity structure of certain communities and local programs that provide support for low-income children and families
- Collecting and analyzing local government administrative data to assess where, for whom, and when barriers to upward mobility arise
- Compiling academic research on policy relevant topics, such as early reading programs, public health interventions, and criminal justice reform
- 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 Summer 2019 semester assistants, there is also the possibility of beginning before June 10 if schedules allow. Interested candidates should submit a resume and a cover letter by April 5, 2019 to policy@opportunityinsights.org. Applicants will be notified of their status by late April.