



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 Fall 2019 semester (September 30-December 3) 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, higher education, and social capital, opportunity, and social integration.

Specific tasks may include:

- Using data from the [Opportunity Atlas](#) to identify cities and neighborhoods where opportunity patterns are unexpected, interesting, or particularly promising for future research or policy engagement
- Analyzing higher education data to highlight trends in low-income student access and success
- Exploring and displaying how affordable housing supply intersects with economic mobility in specific communities
- Gathering and cleaning local administrative data to assess where, for whom, and when barriers to upward mobility arise
- Collecting and cleaning publicly available data from the internet for short-term analysis
- Compiling academic research on topics of policy relevance, such as criminal justice, college access, housing stability, and the drivers and inhibitors of opportunity for African Americans
- Supporting the development of tools and other resources to communicate research to general audiences
- 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 **Stata, R, or Python** is a plus.

Assistants will be paid \$15/hour, and we will accept students eligible for work study. All assistants, including U.S. citizens and permanent residents, must be eligible to work in the U.S. Assistants will have the opportunity to continue to future semesters. Interested candidates should submit a resume and a cover letter by 9/13 to policy@opportunityinsights.org. Applicants will be notified of their status by the end of September.



EEO Statement

We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions, or any other characteristic protected by law.