

Research and Special Projects Associate

Overview

[Opportunity Insights](#) (OI) seeks a **Research and Special Projects Associate** on projects related to economic mobility, higher education, and data science. This position will be based at Brown University and will report directly to OI co-Director and Principal Investigator, [John Friedman](#), and collaborate with him and other OI staff and research affiliates on data management, cleaning, and analysis; stakeholder engagement; and preparation and coordination of special projects and research presentations.

OI is a nonpartisan research and policy institute focused on improving economic opportunity. Founded in 2018, OI has become a nationally and internationally recognized leader in the science of economic mobility and in the use of large administrative data to understand and address inequality. OI has published seminal work on national trends in [upward mobility](#); [racial disparities](#); the role of [neighborhoods](#), [social capital](#), and [higher education](#) in upward mobility; and the use of private-sector data to understand disparate impacts in the [recent economic recession and recovery](#). Much of the team's ongoing research uses quasi-experimental methods to identify causal effects and test the predictions of economic and sociological models. Examples of current research projects include: long-term impacts of neighborhoods and place-based policies, the role of colleges in upward mobility, using big data to address health disparities, and measuring how social networks affect mobility. OI's work has shaped policy discussions at the national and local level, with nearly a dozen of its studies covered on the front pages of [major media outlets](#), such as the [New York Times](#), [The Economist](#), [The Washington Post](#), and the [Wall Street Journal](#), and have been widely cited in policy discussions. To complement this research, OI has developed data resources including the [Opportunity Atlas](#), the [Social Capital Atlas](#), and the [Economic Tracker](#) to support evidence-based policy and practice.

Responsibilities

Data Management and Analysis

- Provide data analysis and other research support to Prof. Friedman and his co-authors.
- Develop data reports, visualizations, and/or other briefing materials to effectively convey findings to intended stakeholders.

Content Creation

- Collaborate on content creation for new and ongoing research projects. Tasks may include drafting results slides, nontechnical summaries, and policy briefs under the supervision of Professor Friedman.

- Assist Prof. Friedman in other content creation as needed including on project and grant reports, blog posts, news articles, congressional testimonies, teaching materials, and other resources.

Stakeholder Coordination and Engagement

- Work with Prof. Friedman and others from OI in outreach and communication with education research partners, including CLIMB network participants and future data and project collaborators. This work may include coordination of Data Use Agreements and terms, participation in exploratory meetings for future partnerships, and development of outreach and engagement materials and strategies.

Requirements

Background and Experience

- Bachelor's Degree required with 1-2 years of related experience.
- Experience as a Research Data Analyst, especially quantitatively analyzing big real-time data, strongly preferred.
- Programming experience in Stata, SAS, R and/or Python, and experience working with large and/or administrative datasets.
- Strong quantitative skills. Excellent conceptual understanding of economic models and econometric / statistical techniques.

Additional Competencies

- Strong critical thinking skills and an ability to introduce creative problem-solving to complex analytic puzzles.
- Exceptional written and verbal communication skills, especially to present analytical or research findings to non-technical audiences.
- Ability to handle highly confidential and sensitive materials and situations.
- Ability to effectively manage a heavy workload, competing priorities, and tight deadlines.
- A quick, self-learner with ability to initiate, organize, prioritize and complete multiple, high-level projects; adapt to changing business needs, conditions, and work responsibilities; respond to change with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn new ways to accomplish work activities and objectives.
- Works well independently and in a team environment.
- Demonstrated sound judgment with the ability to solve problems and make effective decisions.
- Demonstrated ability to support a community of diverse perspectives and cultures in an inclusive environment.

Location

This position is based at Brown University. The work location may be in Providence, RI or Cambridge, MA (hybrid arrangements may also be possible for this position.)

How to Apply

To apply, please complete the following **two steps**:

1. Submit a formal application through [Brown University's online portal](#).
2. Fill out and upload your resume, transcripts, and a writing sample through the [OI online form](#).

As an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer, Brown University provides equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation based upon a person's race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other characteristic protected under applicable law, and caste, which is protected by our University policies.