Research Associate – Amy Finkelstein

Job Description

Professor Amy Finkelstein is looking to hire highly skilled and motivated full-time research associates to begin in the summer or fall of 2018 and to work for two years. The position will entail close collaboration and assistance with the design and analysis of randomized evaluations of interventions in US health care delivery. Examples of the types of projects research assistants would work on include studying the effect of expanding public health insurance (www.nber.org/oregon), analyzing the impacts of healthcare hotspotting on super-utilizers, and studying the effect of Clinical Decision Support on physician scan ordering. Responsibilities include assistance with all stages of empirical research in health economics; working with data sets, cleaning and running checks to spot errors, and generally preparing data for analysis; assisting with literature reviews; institutional review board applications, communicating with research partners about data requests and analysis, and the preparation of academic papers.

This position will be based at J-PAL North America (www.povertyactionlab.org/na) at MIT.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Strong quantitative background
- Strong computer skills including programming
- Ability to work independently
- Long-term interest in pursuing a PhD in economics
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Background in economics and randomized evaluations a plus, but not necessary (Professor Finkelstein welcomes candidates with strong technical backgrounds who are looking for more exposure to economics.)
- Prior research assistant experience strongly preferred
- Excellent grades required

The job is ideal for someone with an enthusiasm for empirical research, and the ability and interest to learn new skills and take initiative as a project develops.

How to Apply

1. Please apply to job ID #15247 on MIT’s Careers Website.
2. Online job application should include (uploaded as one PDF):
   - A cover letter that includes:
     - A brief description of your experience as a research assistant and with any independent research (e.g. thesis or other research projects).
     - A description of your familiarity with various statistical and computer packages (e.g. STATA, SAS, Matlab, Python, Perl etc.).
- The names of two references (and their email and phone contact information) who will be providing written references. At least one reference must be someone for whom you have worked as a research assistant. Please indicate which references you have worked for as a research assistant.
  - A current CV.
  - A transcript (unofficial is fine).
  - A condensed transcript. Please provide a written list of classes on the transcript that are in economics, mathematics, statistics or computer science. For each please include columns for the name of the course, the date taken, the school at which the course was taken, and the main textbook(s) used in the course. Please include any courses you are currently taking.
  - The date on which you are available to start work.
3. Please ask your references (2) to send a written letter of recommendation to Professor Finkelstein’s attention to the following email address: amarlowe@povertyactionlab.org.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Short-listed applicants will be asked to complete a technical exercise and may be called for an interview in Cambridge, MA. We will only be able to contact short-listed applicants.