

Research Assistants (Part-time or Full-time)

W. Bentley MacLeod (Columbia University), Suresh Naidu (Columbia University), and Elliott Ash (ETH Zurich) seek full-time and part-time research assistants to work on empirical projects in law and economics and political economy. The assistantships provide an opportunity for intensive hands-on-training at the intersection of economics and data science, with a special focus on text analysis. Prior research assistants have matriculated at top Ph.D programs in economics and political science.

The ideal candidate has training and long-term interests in economics and data science. Applicants must have strong programming and quantitative skills. Excellent grades are required, including econometrics or statistics as well as microeconomic theory. Previous experience is required with empirical research or comparable private-sector work, with preference given to these and related skill sets: coding and software development (especially Stata and Python), advanced econometrics, working with large datasets, natural language processing, machine learning, and writing research papers.

We look forward to receiving your application by email (subject line “NBER Pre-Doc”) to ashe@ethz.ch. Please include a cover letter highlighting relevant computing skills and research experience:

- Data checks, cleaning, and merging
- Design, description, and implementation of an empirical strategy, with articulation of estimating equations and identification assumptions
- Reporting of results in regression tables
- Data visualization
- Machine learning
- Natural language processing / text as data
- Database management
- Software development (e.g. Git)

In addition, include a coding sample (e.g. GitHub page), writing sample (e.g. thesis), CV, unofficial transcript, and at least one reference who can speak to data work.

For further information on the research projects, please visit wbmacleod.net, tuvalu.santafe.edu/~snaidu, and elliottash.com. Any questions can be directed to Elliott Ash at ashe-at-ethz.ch, Suresh Naidu at sn2430-at-columbia.edu, or Bentley MacLeod at wbmacleod-at-wbmacleod.net.