

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow – Heidi Williams

Job description

[Heidi Williams](#), Professor of Economics at Stanford, is accepting applications for pre-doctoral research fellows to begin in the summer or fall of 2022 and to be appointed for up to two years as part of her research team. The position will entail close collaboration and assistance with all stages of various empirical research projects analyzing the causes and consequences of technological change. For recent high-level discussions of some of Professor Williams's research, see [this](#) write up from the alumni magazine of her alma mater and [this paper](#) (*Annual Review of Economics* 2017). Examples of recent research projects include work on [how patent-provided rents are shared with firms and workers](#) (*Quarterly Journal of Economics* 2019), [how patents on human genes have affected follow-on medical innovation](#) (*American Economic Review* 2019), and [ways that data on global pharmaceutical sales can be used to test models in the field of international trade](#) (*Quarterly Journal of Economics* 2019).

Qualifications

Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, and should have a long-term interest in pursuing research related to economics, innovation policy, and/or health policy. However, prior background in these areas is not strictly necessary; candidates interested in gaining exposure to these areas of research are very welcome to apply. This position is ideal for candidates looking to develop their empirical research skills in preparation for applying to PhD programs in economics or related fields, but may also be a good fit for students planning to apply to other types of graduate programs such as law school. Preference will be given to detail-oriented applicants with previous programming experience, particularly in working with large datasets in software such as Stata. Prior experience with a general-purpose programming language such as Python is desirable but not required.

Compensation and benefits

These pre-doctoral research fellow positions will be physically based at the [Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research \(SIEPR\)](#), and the fellows will be part of the [SIEPR/Economics Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship program](#). Other openings in the SIEPR/Economics program are or will be posted when available on [this](#) website.

Fellows are appointed as non-matriculated graduate students at Stanford, dedicating a significant portion of their time to research with Professor Williams's research team but also taking graduate-level courses at Stanford University for credit (up to one course per quarter). Students will receive academic credit and a transcript upon passing these courses. The fellowship offers tuition, health insurance, and a stipend (\$52,000 in 2021-2022). International applicants can be sponsored on a J-1 visa.

How to apply

- 1) Please complete [this online application](#), which includes a request to upload a single PDF that appends all of the following materials into one file:
 - a. A cover letter describing your interest in this position, your familiarity with programming languages (e.g. Stata, SAS, Python), your prior experience as a research assistant and/or with independent research projects, and names and e-mail addresses of two references
 - b. A current CV
 - c. An unofficial transcript
- 2) Please ask your two references to e-mail a letter of recommendation to Sharyn Nantuna (snantuna@stanford.edu) with cc: to Professor Williams (hlwill@stanford.edu)

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until filled. Short-listed applicants will be asked to complete a technical exercise and may be called for an interview.