

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow – Amy Finkelstein

Job Description:

MIT Professor Amy Finkelstein is looking to hire highly skilled and motivated full-time pre-doctoral research fellows to begin in the spring or summer of 2024 and to work for two years as part of her research team. The position will entail close collaboration and assistance with all stages of empirical research in health economics.

Examples of the types of projects fellows would work on include understanding the causes and consequences of large-scale geographic variation in healthcare spending and health (see e.g. [these three papers](#)), the impact and optimal design of health care policy (see e.g. [these three papers](#)) and the determinants of population health (such see e.g. [this paper](#) or [this paper](#))

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- Strong quantitative background
- Strong computer skills including programming
- Ability to work independently
- Excellent communication skills, both in writing and orally
- Long-term interest in pursuing a PhD in economics
- Background in economics 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 using a wide range of methods, and the ability and interest to learn new skills and take initiative as a project develops.

Note: Applicants especially interested in RCTs, including designing and implementing experiments in conjunction with implementing partners, are encouraged to also consider applying to [this](#) opportunity (job number 23130) for RA's to work on Prof. Finkelstein's research team based at J-PAL North America. Applicants are welcome to apply to both roles and may upload identical materials to each application portal.

Professor Finkelstein welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds, particularly women, people of color and other marginalized communities which have historically been underrepresented in the field of economics.

Note: Authorization for work in the US is required. Employment is contingent upon the completion of a satisfactory background check. This position is based at the MIT office in Cambridge, MA with the option for a hybrid work model.

Compensation and Benefits

As an employee of MIT, this position offers competitive compensation and generous benefits, including an annual tuition reimbursement of more than \$5,000, discounted commuter benefits, management and technical skills development, and comprehensive health, dental, and life insurance plans. For more information on MIT's benefits, please click [here](http://hrweb.mit.edu/benefits). (<http://hrweb.mit.edu/benefits>)

How to Apply

- Please apply to job ID #23101 on [MIT's Careers Website](https://hr.mit.edu/careers) (<https://hr.mit.edu/careers>)
- Online job application should include (uploaded as a single PDF in ANY upload field):
 - 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.
- In addition to the online application, please ask your references (2) to send a written letter of recommendation to Professor Finkelstein's attention to the following email address: aecabral@mit.edu. Letters are preferred as soon as possible after the submission of the application but applications can be considered before the letters arrive.

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.