



Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow Position

Position Description

Professor Shoshana Vasserman is looking to hire a pre-doctoral research fellow at the Stanford Graduate School of Business to begin in the summer or fall of 2022 and to be appointed for up to two years (one year, renewable for a second). Professor Vasserman's research is in industrial organization and empirical market design. You can find out more about her work on her website: <https://shoshanavasserman.com/>.

Recent projects have studied [auction design for infrastructure procurement](#), [bargaining policies for pharmaceutical pricing](#), [data-sharing](#) programs such as those [run by auto-insurers](#) and the impact of [network structure on pandemic lockdown policies](#).

The fellow will work on ongoing research projects involving the empirical evaluation and design of policies for changing marketplaces. Possible project topics include congestion pricing for road use and the supply & demand pressures for online news—and will likely involve empirical work to develop and analyze never-before-seen data from large-scale ongoing experiments.

Results from the research are of policy relevance and are likely to be of interest to general media (e.g. The Economist or Wall Street Journal). While the research fellow's focus will primarily be on learning and producing academic research, there may also be opportunities to interface with policy institutions, produce publicly available statistics and graphical interfaces that help communicate the research to the broader public.

The research fellow will be dedicated to Professor Vasserman and work closely and directly with her. As part of the research process, the fellow will also interact with Professor Vasserman's co-authors, PhD students (research assistants and/or co-authors), and other students involved in the research projects at Stanford or other universities. This is a vibrant community with plenty of interaction and an expectation of working collaboratively in smaller groups and then presenting research progress to the broader group.

In addition to research training, the fellow will have the opportunity to take one class for credit at Stanford each quarter. Over the course of the two-year fellowship, this amounts to taking 6-8 classes and at the end, most fellows have training equivalent to the first year of the PhD in Economics. This significantly improves their preparation for future graduate studies in economics.

Requirements

The application deadline is October 15th, 2021. Applications submitted after the deadline will be considered on a rolling basis. In exceptional cases and if you are in demonstrated need of a fast track decision—for example a deadline on another opportunity—we offer expedited reviews.

The requirements for the position are the same as those for the Stanford GSB Research Fellows program, that can be found here: <https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/programs/research-fellows/admission>

In summary: a preferred candidate would have a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, a strong quantitative background, excellent programming skills, and a serious interest in pursuing research in economics. Intellectual curiosity and a desire to do things well can compensate for most technical qualifications. Candidates from groups underrepresented in economics are especially encouraged to apply.

Compensation

The research fellow is appointed as non-matriculated graduate student at Stanford and can take up to one graduate-level course for credit per quarter. The fellowship offers tuition, health insurance, a living stipend (\$47,000 per year in 2020-21), a housing, transportation, and tax supplement (\$6,000).

Application Instructions

Successful international applications will be sponsored for J1 visas. Students eligible for OPT are encouraged to use it during the fellowship. While normally most interactions will be in person and the current plan is for Stanford University to operate in person starting in Fall 2021, this plan is subject to change and due the ongoing pandemic remote work might be necessary.

To Apply visit: <https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/programs/research-fellows/admission> and select Prof. Vasserman under the Dedicated Track option. The required materials are:

- 1) A short cover letter describing your interest in the position, your familiarity with programming languages (e.g., Stata, R, MATLAB, Python, and any others), your prior experience as a research assistant and/or with independent research projects. Note that the letter can be generic (not tailored to the details of this posting).
- 2) Your CV
- 3) An up to date transcript (unofficial or official)
- 4) The names and contact details of two reference letter writers.

Short-listed applicants will be contacted in early November to complete a technical exercise and a remote interview.