

## **Full-time Research Assistant**

*Summary:* I am seeking a full-time research assistant for the 2014-15 (and possibly 2015-16) academic year(s). The successful candidate will contribute centrally to a number of research projects in the fields of International Trade, Development Economics, Economic History, Economic Geography/Urban Economics, and Applied Microeconomics more generally. This research is always empirically focused but often draws heavily on economic theory. I expect to involve the candidate in all stages of research – brainstorming, literature reviews, model building, data hunting and collecting (including managing a data entry team), simple estimation in Stata, more complicated estimation/simulation in Matlab and AMPL, geographic data processing and visualization in ArcGIS (when relevant), and writing. The position would be ideal training for a recent graduate (from an undergraduate or Bachelor's degree) who is interested in going on to do an Economics PhD on applied empirical topics. Fundamentally, this position offers a chance to gain crucial research experience before embarking on the two years of coursework that typically mark the start of a PhD. There will be close interaction with both me and my co-authors, such as Costas Arkolakis (Yale), David Atkin (Yale), Joshua Blumenstock (Washington), Robin Burgess (LSE), Arnaud Costinot (MIT), Olivier Deschenes (UCSB), Michael Greenstone (MIT), Kyle Handley (Michigan), Richard Hornbeck (Harvard), Petra Moser (Stanford), Stephen Redding (Princeton), Andres Rodriguez-Clare (Berkeley), Heidi Williams (MIT). Examples of current research papers can be found on my website.

*Details:* Salary is \$40,000. Expected start date is 15 August 2014, though this is flexible. In the first instance this is a one-year position but, conditional on performance, funding and mutual agreement, the position could roll over for a second year. The candidate is welcome to take advantage of immersion in the Stanford Economics community and to attend (with instructors' permission) PhD-level Economics courses at Stanford, as well as both student and faculty research workshops.

*Desired qualifications:* The candidate must possess (at the time of starting) an undergraduate degree, with excellent grades, in Economics or another quantitative field (such as, but not limited to, Mathematics, Computer Science, Engineering or Physics). Undergraduates with a major in Economics must demonstrate success on Mathematics and Statistics courses. Experience with computer programming is extremely desirable. Ideally this would comprise substantial experience with either a programming language or software used in the social sciences (such as Stata or Matlab). An interest in computers and a willingness to learn new programs is also vital. The candidate must enjoy independent problem-solving and thrive on taking high-level directional advice and then running with this advice as far as possible. Finally, and mutually beneficially, the candidate must have a desire to understand the social world around them and possess a thirst for answering research questions about how economies function.

*Application Procedure:* Please email me the following as soon as possible and as one .pdf document:

1. A cover letter that briefly outlines: (a) your background and career ambitions, (b) your experience in conducting or assisting with research projects, (c) your experience and familiarity (giving short examples of problems solved by code you've written) with any relevant programming languages, (d) the names (with email addresses) of any professors for whom you have worked as a research assistant in the past (along with a brief description of that role) who will be willing to provide a brief letter of recommendation upon request, and (e) your immigration status.

2. A current CV.

3. A transcript (unofficial is fine but official preferred) of any undergraduate and postgraduate studies, with grades specified as precisely as possible (e.g. with plus/minus modifiers or number grades).

4. A copy of any research output that you have written yourself (such as a thesis or term paper).

*Deadline:* Applications will be considered on a rolling basis (so please send in yours as soon as possible) and a decision is expected to be taken in the summer of 2014, but I welcome expressions of interest from exceptional candidates at any time of the year.

*Further details:* Please don't hesitate to contact me by email with any questions about this position.