



Term Position for the Academic Year 2025-26

Job Title: Senior Research Specialist I (full-time, multiple positions)

Department: [SPIA-Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance](#)

Start Date: Summer 2025

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Based in Princeton's School of Public & International Affairs and under the direction of [Prof. Atif Mian](#), the [Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance](#) (JRCPFF) promotes research and teaching at the intersection of finance, macroeconomics and policy. We seek to hire talented and motivated predoctoral research specialists to assist multiple economics and finance faculty working with the center. This position is ideal for graduating seniors or master's degree students interested in economics or finance, who have plans for doctoral studies in two years. Previous research specialists have been accepted to top Ph.D. programs including at Stanford, Princeton, Harvard, Yale, MIT, Northwestern, London School of Economics, Columbia, NYU, Barcelona GSE, and U. of Maryland.

This is a term position renewable after the first year. Successful applicants will start in summer 2025 (start date flexible). We strongly prefer candidates willing to commit for two years. The position is based in Princeton, NJ and will be in-person. The research specialist will report directly to faculty and the JRCPFF associate director.

PRIMARY DUTIES

- Clean, synthesize, and analyze data. Produce empirical analysis and more sophisticated statistical models. Prepare results and design figures for reports and presentations. Could also involve theoretical work such as coding of model simulations.
- Develop and maintain expertise in new research methodologies and techniques. Manage and manipulate data using requested languages, including, for example, Python, R, MATLAB, and STATA.
- Collaborate successfully with faculty, students, and other RAs at Princeton as well as external co-authors.
- Independently manage all timelines and deliverables. Exercise independent decision-making with regard to progression of research project and methodologies.
- Other duties may be assigned.

The ideal candidate will: (i) have a strong quantitative background; (ii) have significant experience with coding and computing; (iii) be able to work independently to solve problems; and (iv) have a long-term interest in economics or finance research. A background in economics or finance is a plus, but not necessary—we welcome candidates with strong technical backgrounds who are looking for more exposure to economics. The position is structured to help individuals prepare for doctoral programs in economics by gaining valuable research experience. In addition to working closely with Center faculty, senior research specialists have opportunities to participate in Princeton's vibrant academic life of

Princeton University through attending seminars, attending classes, and interacting with students and fellows at the Center.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- BA/BS in economics, mathematics, or computer science, or in a related field (e.g., public policy, with significant coursework in economics, mathematics, statistics and/or programming)
- Experience with statistical programming in STATA, Python or R
- Demonstrated interest in empirical social science
- Excellent analytical, empirical, and writing skills, demonstrated through independent work (e.g. course paper, undergraduate thesis, or independent research)
- Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously and flexibly adapt to changes in priorities; experience working both independently and as a team member; willingness to take initiative and follow projects through to completion.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge of STATA, R, Python, Julia, and/or Matlab
- Experience with LaTeX, Unix/Linux
- Evidence of outstanding academic achievement
- Familiarity with standard economic and financial data sources, Internet tools, and HTML

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and as such we encourage applicants to apply early. Short-listed applicants will be contacted for an interview and technical assessment. Candidates should upload the following as a SINGLE PDF: (*Upload to the "Other Documents" field in the online application.*)

1. Cover letter and resume
2. List of three references
3. Transcripts from all previous academic programs
4. A research paper in economics or finance (e.g. independent research, thesis, course paper, etc.)
5. Sample of code (ideally for same paper)

All interested candidates are encouraged to apply. At Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs, we believe that it is vital to cultivate an environment that embraces and promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion—fundamental to the success of our education and research mission. This commitment to diversity informs our efforts in recruitment and hiring as we actively seek colleagues of exceptional ability who represent a broad range of viewpoints, experiences, and value systems, and who share Princeton University's dedication to excellence.

Princeton University is an [Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer\(link is external\)](#) and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. [EEO IS THE LAW](#)