

Position: Full-Time Research Assistant

Description of Job Responsibilities:

This full-time research assistant position, working with Economics professor Dan Benjamin (at the University of Southern California) and his co-authors and starting summer 2020, is ideal for individuals interested in behavioral economics research and likely to pursue a PhD in economics. Current projects include identifying genetic variants associated with educational attainment, conducting surveys to shed light on what respondents mean when they answer questions about their own happiness, and developing theory and running experiments to understand people's biased beliefs about random processes. For examples of past research, see <http://www.danieljbenjamin.com/>. Research assistants are directly involved in the entire research process, including:

- Data analysis (Stata knowledge required, MATLAB knowledge a plus)
- Grant writing
- Experiment design and execution (including tasks such as assisting with formulating hypotheses to be tested; writing procedure documents for experiments; coordinating the location of and staff for experiments; managing participants' payments, etc.)
- Survey design and execution (including writing survey questions, testing website designs, liaising with market research firms, etc.)
- Background research and literature reviews for experiment/survey design and paper writing
- Data compiling and presentation (including designing figures for papers, paper editing, and the potential for small writing assignments, such as blog posts or data reports)
- Various administrative tasks central to the research process (including IRB applications, coordination of team activities, creation of efficient systems of management, etc.)

Required background:

- Knowledge of Stata, Excel
- Strong organizational and self-disciplinary skills
- A background in economics (undergraduate degree or at least 3 years of relevant experience)
- Leadership skills
- An interest in behavioral economics specifically
- Strong writing skills

Optional background:

- Knowledge of MATLAB and Latex
- Knowledge of various statistical analyses such as OLS, MLE, and PCA

Salary: \$56,000 (plus benefits)

To apply please submit the following documents, as a single pdf document, to cwatson.usc@gmail.com:

- (1) A cover letter describing your interest in and qualifications for the position (reference RFP:012)
- (2) your resume
- (3) an unofficial transcript, and
- (4) a paper you've written for a course, a research paper, or other writing sample.

There is no set deadline for applications. The position will remain open until it is filled.