

## **Research Assistant Opportunity: Data Cleaning and Processing**

### **Job Description:**

Professor Ebonya Washington (SIPA/Economics) is seeking 2 undergraduate students to work as research assistants (RAs) as part of a team working on a large-scale data collection project. Selected students will work 20 hours a week and be paid \$22/hr. Work will begin mid-May and last approximately 10 weeks.

### **Job Duties:**

The RAs' primary task will be cleaning, organizing, and processing data for analysis in Stata. Work will include importing and merging data from Excel files, ensuring variables are consistent across sheets and linking individuals across sheets and other data organizing tasks. Students may be asked to perform additional tasks such as data collection or preliminary analysis as needs arise. Although students will be part of a 3 to 4-person team, the majority of the work will be done independently and hours can be completed as the student wishes, within some guidelines. All work will be done remotely.

### **Project Description:**

Black, Latinx and Native Americans comprise less than 10% of PhD economists. Unfortunately, we do not have good data for the fraction they comprise of academic faculty. We aim to fill that knowledge gap using a panel dataset of snapshots of members of academic economic departments. We will follow individuals over time to get a handle on not just the numbers of underrepresented minorities at any one moment, but how their careers do or do not progress differently from white economists.

### **Required Qualifications:**

We are looking for students proficient in Stata who are interested in gaining research experience. Students majoring in economics, sociology, political science, or a related discipline are preferred and more likely to find the position interesting and valuable, but students from any discipline are welcome to apply. Applicants can be in any year of their program. Selected students will be strong with Stata, detail-orientated, responsive to feedback, and work well independently and as a part of a team. Basic experience with GitHub is an asset.

### **To Apply:**

Please email a resume/CV, cover letter, and a Stata coding sample to [Joshua.K.Thomas@columbia.edu](mailto:Joshua.K.Thomas@columbia.edu). In the cover letter, not exceeding one page (single-spaced), please include a brief description of yourself, your interest in the project, and why you would be a good fit for the position. The Stata sample can be anything which best displays proficiency, although code used to clean datasets is preferred. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until both positions are filled.