

Predocutorial Fellowship Opportunity

Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy

Harvard Kennedy School

About the Position

Professor Marcella Alsan (Harvard Kennedy School, Health Inequality Lab) is recruiting **1-2** full-time predoctoral research fellows to start in **Summer 2024**. The Research Fellows will support and collaborate on a series of projects related to the economics of health inequality within and outside the United States. Some examples of recent projects include [improving health care in U.S jails](#), [preventive health messaging](#), and historical projects on firearms and private insurance. Further examples of Professor Alsan's work can be found on the [Health Inequality Lab website](#).

The successful applicant will receive mentoring from faculty within a tight-knit research community at the Wiener Center and access to a broad range of activities at Harvard and MIT. Additionally, there may be opportunities to travel to project locations to support field research activities. Prior Fellows have gone on to attend top-tier PhD programs in Economics and Public Policy.

Fellow positions are based in Cambridge, MA at the Harvard Kennedy School. **Appointment terms for Fellows are for one year with the potential for a second-year renewal.** Preference will be given to applicants who have availability to work for two years.

About the Wiener Center

[The Malcolm Wiener Center](#) is a vibrant intellectual community of faculty, master's and PhD students, researchers, and administrative staff whose mission is to address pressing public policy questions through academic research, teaching, and policy outreach. The work of the Center covers the domains of health care, human services, criminal justice, labor markets, education, and political and economic inequality. The Wiener Center addresses pressing questions in these areas by carrying out research on important public policy issues, educating the next generation of academics and policy scholars, and ensuring that research and education are closely tied to and draw from policy and practice.

Responsibilities

- Clean and manage large datasets
- Conduct statistical analyses of data using Stata, R, and Python
- Prepare literature reviews, background research, and other content for grant proposals and academic papers
- Draft project reports, research protocols, and other project documents
- Oversee and coordinate field research activities
- Travel to the field as needed

Qualifications

Required

- Bachelor's or master's degree in Economics, Public Policy, or other field requiring substantial quantitative coursework
- Prior experience as a research assistant or fellow in the fields of Economics or Public Policy
- Proficiency programming in Stata
- Strong academic record
- Strong interest in economics and public policy research
- Excellent command of Microsoft Office suite (Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint)
- Strong written and oral communication skills

Preferred

- Graduate-level coursework in Economics and Econometrics
- Proficiency programming in R and Python
- Proficiency in LaTeX

How to Apply

Visit the [online application form](#) and follow these instructions:

- Enter your email, first name, and last name in the fields provided.
- Attach all the following documents as **a single PDF**:
 - CV (please list your GPA from all degrees completed)
 - Cover letter, which should be up to one page in length and include a detailed explanation of your experience with each stage of the research process as well as a description of various statistical and computer programs that you are familiar with (e.g., Stata, Python, R, etc.)
 - Official or unofficial transcripts for all degrees earned
 - A single-authored academic writing sample (examples include term papers, undergraduate or master's theses, or peer-reviewed publications)
 - Brief coding sample in Stata
 - Contact information for three academic or professional references

The title of the PDF should be your first name followed by your last name (such as "John_Doe.pdf"). We are not able to consider incomplete applications or those submitted not according to the guidelines above.

Compensation and Benefits

- Wiener Center Predoctoral Fellows receive a competitive salary and are eligible for Harvard University's partially subsidized healthcare options in which an individual can enroll and purchase medical, dental, and vision insurance plans. Other benefits include life insurance, long-term disability, and tuition assistance program (after eligibility of service at Harvard). Fellows are also able to take advantage of a broad array of activities including academic seminars, Forums, networking opportunities and special events. Professor Alsan also offers the option to fund a course at Harvard extension or the Poverty Action Lab (MIT) during the first year.
- Professor Alsan values having a diverse research team and encourages applications from women, people of color and from other groups which historically have been underrepresented in the field of economics. Fellows must hold authorization to work in the U.S. by the Fall 2024 start date; we may be able to sponsor successful international applicants for a J-1 visa.
- **Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until the position is filled.** Applicants selected to move forward in the recruitment process may be required to complete a technical exercise in Stata and participate in interviews.