

Yale *Tobin Center* *for Economic Policy*

Tobin Center / Economics Pre-Doctoral Fellows Program

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The Tobin Center / Economics Pre-Doctoral Fellows Program at Yale University supports policy-relevant economics research by providing a high-quality education and training experience for individuals with bachelor’s or master’s degrees who are considering pursuing a Ph.D. in economics or a closely related discipline.

Pre-doctoral fellows work for one to two years as full-time research assistants for one or more faculty mentors and engage in additional education and training activities, including taking for credit or auditing one course per semester, participating in a weekly professional development seminar, and attending department research seminars. All positions are based on-campus, and most fellows work in common workspaces to foster camaraderie and peer learning.

We invite interested individuals to apply to our 2021-22 cohort and join our vibrant and diverse community of approximately 40 scholars. Our program is strengthened when a diversity of backgrounds, identities, and viewpoints are represented. We encourage members of historically underrepresented groups in economics to apply, including women, LGBTQ, Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and first-generation low-income (FGLI) college students, among others.

To apply, please review available positions listed on our [webpage](#) and complete our [common application](#), which requests personal and educational background information, a ranking of faculty supervisors, and a single PDF containing a cover letter that includes the contact information for 2-3 references, a resume/CV, a diversity statement (optional), unofficial transcript(s), a writing sample, and

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a coding sample. Some faculty supervisors also request application materials directly (see Project Descriptions). In this case, please follow their instructions and also submit the common application.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until positions have been filled. New positions may continue to be posted, and filled positions will be indicated. Short-listed applicants may be asked to complete a data or technical exercise and may be invited to interview.

Most positions will begin in July to coincide with a multi-day orientation and training, although other start dates may be negotiable. Positions last for one year with an option to renew for a second and final year by mutual agreement by the faculty supervisor(s) and the fellow. Salary will be competitive with similar programs at other institutions, and the position includes standard benefits such as health insurance. The University will sponsor visas for accepted international candidates (unless otherwise indicated in an individual project description).

For more information about the program and our application requirements, please read our Frequently Asked Questions or contact Rebecca Toseland at rebecca.toseland@yale.edu.

The Tobin Center for Economic Policy and the Yale Department of Economics are member institutions of Pathways to Research and Doctoral Careers (PREDOC), a consortium of universities and research institutions that aims to foster a talented, diverse, and inclusive population in the quantitative social sciences. To learn more about pre-doctoral positions and find additional opportunities, please visit predoc.org.

Yale University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Yale values diversity among its students, staff, and faculty and strongly welcomes applications from women, persons with disabilities, protected veterans, and underrepresented minorities.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do you sponsor visas for international Fellows?

Yes; we sponsor J-1 and TN visas. If applicable, candidates eligible for F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) are encouraged to use this visa if granted a fellowship.

2. What should I include in my cover letter?

Describe your interest in the program and specific faculty projects; the date you are available to start work; whether you prefer to work for one or two years; your familiarity with programming languages (Stata, R, Python, Matlab, etc.); your prior experience as a research assistant and with independent research (e.g., a senior thesis); the names, email addresses, and phone numbers for 2-3 references; any other relevant information.

3. What should I include in my resume/CV?

Include all relevant education, research experience, work experience, and skills. The Yale Office of Career Strategy provides generalized guidance [here](#).

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4. What should I include in my diversity statement?

Provide a short statement (up to 250 words) describing how your personal background and prior academic, professional, or research experience could contribute to diversity and inclusion in our program and to the field of economics.

5. What kind of writing sample should I submit?

A paper that displays your writing and analytic skills and capacity to execute independent research. A senior thesis, Master's thesis, or a term paper are all fine choices. Any length is acceptable.

6. What kind of coding sample should I submit?

A set of R, Stata, or Python code you have written for an empirical project or a class. You may submit more than one if applying to multiple positions with different language preferences.

7. What are the opportunities for taking classes?

We encourage our Fellows to either audit or take for credit one course per semester. You may audit any course at Yale for free, with permission of the instructor. Courses taken for credit cost approximately \$2,800 each, and this potential expense is accounted for in setting salary for our Fellows.

8. What is New Haven like as a place to live?

We are biased, but we think New Haven is awesome. Yale is located in the geographic center of New Haven, and contributes much to the city's character and culture. Beyond Yale, there are many places to eat, drink, shop, and experience arts and culture. Should you want more, it is also very easy to get to nearby cities such as New York (2 hours) or Boston (3 hours) by car or train. The cost of living is affordable, and the city is generally safe (violent crime rates, for example, are currently lower than the national average).

9. What are the placement outcomes for Fellows in your program?

2019-20 was the inaugural year of the program, and Fellows who applied to Ph.D. programs matriculated to top economics and business school programs at the London School of Economics, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania, University of Toronto, University of Wisconsin, and Yale.