

Research Assistantship Announcement

I am an assistant professor in the [Economics Department](#) of Binghamton University, a Research Fellow at [the IZA Institute for Labor Economics](#) (Bonn, Germany) and an Affiliated Professor at [The Harvard University Institute for Quantitative Social Science](#), The University of Chicago's [Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group](#).

Research Assistantship (RA) position: I am looking for a part-time undergraduate research assistant to help with various projects concerning education, health, finance, and gender in the context of low- and middle-income countries. The student will assist with data analysis, managing datasets, literature reviews developing econometric and statistical knowledge, creating data visualizations, presenting analyses in written and oral presentations and will provide general research support for my ongoing research projects. I expect to involve the candidate in all stages of research – brainstorming, literature reviews, data analysis in Stata, data processing, data visualization, and writing. The successful candidate will contribute centrally to the data work of the projects. A more detailed description of my ongoing and completed projects is available at <http://users.nber.org/~nikolovp/research.html>.

Position Requirements: Excellent writing skills, previous background in statistical analysis, and exposure to programming (e.g., SAS, Stata, or R). Other pluses: ability to think creatively, work independently with minimal supervision; strong attention to detail; strong performance in economics and quantitative courses; ability to write clearly. Prior exposure to econometrics is extremely helpful but not a requirement. I am looking for a person who enjoys independent problem-solving and thrives on taking high-level directional advice and then running with this advice as far as possible. The ideal candidate has a desire to understand the social world around them and possesses a thirst for answering research questions about how the social environment affects individuals

The target groups are current undergraduate Economics majors who are returning in the fall, students with a strong economics background. Preference will be given to candidates who aim to broaden their research experience before pursuing graduate studies in a social science discipline or economics. The RA role provides a hands-on view of conducting research, enabling RAs to gauge their interest in and enjoyment of conducting research before deciding to pursue a graduate program. Time commitment will average 5-15 hours a week for several months.

How to apply: Please email Plamen Nikolov (pnikolov@binghamton.edu) a single PDF document named “Lastname_Firstname” containing the following materials **into a single PDF document**:

- (1) a short 1-page cover letter discussing the following points:
 - why you are interested in being a research assistant,
 - a brief statement outlining your prior research experience (if any),
 - your performance in the following courses: intermediate microeconomic theory, prior statistics/econometrics/mathematics (beyond calculus),
 - your familiarity with and experience using programming languages (if any),
 - an example of a previous project in which you carried out analyses independently, and
 - your short-term career plans or plans for graduate studies (if any);
- (2) a copy of your recent resume;
- (3) an unofficial copy of your undergraduate transcript(s);
- (4) a 5-page writing sample of your own work (preferably from a social science class).

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted or asked to complete a technical exercise and called for a Zoom interview.

Plamen Nikolov's Research Lab (<https://scholar.harvard.edu/pnikolov/my-research-group-1>)
Binghamton, NY August 27, 2021