

# **Research Assistant III Non-Lab**

Harvard Medical School

## **Job-Specific Responsibilities**

The Research Assistant (“RA”) will assist with joint research projects in health economics being conducted by Dr. Vilsa Curto, Dr. Timothy Layton, and Dr. J. Michael McWilliams (“PIs”), who are professors at Harvard. This position is based in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. This research will be on topics that are highly relevant to U.S. health care policy. Current projects focus on the economics of the Medicare program, including the role of private Medicare plans and Accountable Care Organizations, payment system design, risk adjustment, and quality of care. All projects will emphasize rigorous empirical methods for causal inference such as quasi-experimental methods. The ideal candidate would be planning to pursue a graduate degree in economics, public or health policy, or a related discipline.

The RA’s most important task will be to use statistical software to work with large data sets, including insurance claims data sets. This work will involve developing data files that can be analyzed (i.e., “cleaning the data”) as well as using statistical analysis to analyze the data (with supervision by the PIs). The RA will be expected to work effectively within a culture inclusive of individuals with diverse backgrounds, styles, abilities, and motivations, and appreciate and leverage the capabilities, insights, and ideas of all individuals.

## **Basic Qualifications**

One or more years related research experience. Higher education may count toward experience.

## **Additional Qualifications and Skills**

A background in statistical programming is strongly preferred, including competency in both Stata and SAS. A basic understanding of economics and econometrics is also preferred. The RA will also be expected to have strong writing skills in order to help with manuscript drafts based on the analyses. One or more years of related research experience is preferred.

BA or BS preferably in the field of specific research study, with a preference for coursework in a social science field (economics, statistics, or sociology with a quantitative focus). Applicant should have proficiency in using statistical software packages such as Stata. Should demonstrate interest, experience, or background in the areas of public economics, health insurance, and/or health services organization, financing, and delivery. Must be proficient with most computer software including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Must have working knowledge of statistical software such as Stata and/or SAS. Competency with LaTeX preferred. Must learn other software as needed. Independent judgment, patience and excellent communication skills are required to respond efficiently to varied and complex tasks. Organization and attention to detail are necessary. Flexibility and an ability to work with a team are essential. Must

be able to maintain a calm and cooperative attitude during periods of increased staff activity.

### **Additional Information**

#### **[Harvard Medical School Mission and Community Values](#)**

***This is a one-year term position with possibility of extension contingent on work performance and continued funding to support the position.***

#### ***Harvard University offers an outstanding benefits package including:***

- ***Time Off:*** 3 - 4 weeks paid vacation, paid holiday break, 12 paid sick days, 11.5 paid holidays, and 3 paid personal days per year.
- ***Medical/Dental/Vision:*** We offer a variety of excellent medical plans, dental & vision plans; all coverage begins as of your start date.
- ***Retirement:*** University-funded retirement plan with full vesting after 3 years of service.
- ***Tuition Assistance Program:*** Competitive tuition assistance program, \$40 per class at the Harvard Extension School and discounted options through participating Harvard grad schools.
- ***Transportation:*** Harvard offers a 50% discounted MBTA pass as well as additional options to assist employees in their daily commute.
- ***Wellness options:*** Harvard offers programs and classes at little or no cost, including stress management, massages, nutrition, meditation, and complementary health services.
- ***Harvard access to athletic facilities, libraries, campus events, and many discounts throughout metro Boston.***

Harvard Medical School is not able to provide visa sponsorship for this position.

Applicants should send a cover letter and CV directly via email to Kim McDougall ([mcdougall@hcp.med.harvard.edu](mailto:mcdougall@hcp.med.harvard.edu)).