



PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

I am looking for a highly motivated individual to join as a Pre-doctoral Researcher to work on research on the economic impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI), under the supervision of Professor [Tania Babina](#) at the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business. The Pre-Doctoral researcher will be based at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, with opportunity to work remotely, and will work in close collaboration with Professor Babina and her coauthors. The start date is subject to negotiation, but may be as early as June 1, 2026 and no later than August 1, 2026. This is a full-time position and its length is 1 to 2 years.

If you are interested in getting experience in doing academic research on how AI affects firms, workers, and financial markets, this would be an ideal position to consider. Specifically, the pre-doctoral researcher will help extend and improve measures of firm-level investments in AI introduced in [Babina et al \(2024\)](#), as well as find new ways to measure firms' efforts in AI. To build these AI measures, the team will use structured and unstructured real-time data with traditional and cutting-edge ML and NLP methods. These AI data will be used to study how firms use AI, the effects of these AI efforts on firm and industry performance and on workers and related questions. In sum, the position offers exposure to real-time AI measurement frontier and the opportunity to work on high-impact datasets and projects. There will be also other projects on studying the economic impact of innovation more generally and additional ongoing research projects. Predocs are expected to be involved in all steps of research, including project planning, research design, data analysis, and preparing presentations.

The ideal candidate holds (or is close to completing) a Bachelors or Masters in Economics, Finance, Computer Science, or related field and intends to seek a PhD position at a top-

ranked department in finance and economics or adjacent field after completion of the predoc. The predoc will receive close mentorship, detailed feedback on research ideas, and support with PhD applications. Previous predoctoral researchers of Professor Babina have gone to PhD programs at Harvard, University of Chicago, Wharton, and NYU.

The ideal candidate is proactive and eager to deepen their technical skills prior to and during the appointment.

Required Skills:

- Strong quantitative background
- Proficiency in Stata and Python
- Experience with data management
- Strong English writing skills

Preferred Skills:

- Experience with econometrics
- Experience with ML/NLP/LLMs
- Experience with large-scale unstructured data
- Familiarity with AI coding agents

To start the application process, please fill out this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LO_T02d4H8IrumO_BLzsOndrxgsHBGiPfcvxL9Vuq-Y

The deadline to submit this form is **March 31**. Short-listed applicants will be asked to complete an interview and a technical data and coding exercise to demonstrate their qualifications. While the visa sponsorship for this position is not available, current F-1 visa and OPT/STEM OPT holders are eligible.

Salary range: \$50,000–\$55,000 per year, plus full university benefits. The funding is guaranteed for two years.