Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant 2027-2028 (Armitage and Ostriker)

Short Job Description

Professors Sarah Armitage and Abigail Ostriker at the Questrom School of Business (Boston University) are seeking a Predoctoral Research Assistant to support quantitative research in business economics. The successful candidate will support research in economics of energy and the environment. Examples of recent projects include measuring insurance incentives for wildfire risk mitigation and studying transfers of end-of-life oil and gas wells to imminently bankrupt firms. Job responsibilities will include cleaning and analyzing data, identifying and obtaining secondary data, performing statistical and econometric analyses, conducting background research and literature reviews, and writing research reports.

This is a challenging opportunity for an early-career professional who is passionate about social science research and has a strong desire to expand and deepen skills in economic research and quantitative data analysis. You will work closely with Professors Armitage and Ostriker, who will provide mentorship on professional development more broadly. You will also be encouraged to be an active part of the research community at Boston University.

The start date is on or soon after July 1, 2027. The position offers competitive salary and benefits. We anticipate that the successful candidate would work in this position for 1 year, before going on to graduate programs or careers in Business Economics, Public Policy, or another quantitative social science.

Applicants should have:

- A BA/BS in Economics, Statistics, Data Science, or related quantitative discipline by the start date of the position
- Either a grade of at least A- in intermediate econometrics or a post-graduate degree (MA/MS, MPhil)
- Previous experience as a research analyst or conducting independent research using statistical software such as R or Stata
- Authorization to work in the United States

Competitive candidates will have:

- Experience working with geospatial programming
- Proficiency with statistical programming in both R and Stata
- Background in economics or related disciplines
- Enthusiasm for empirical research and an interest in pursuing a PhD in economics or related fields (e.g., public policy)
- An ability to work independently and with attention to detail
- Effective communication and task-management skills
- Excellent academic performance

Interested candidates should submit one PDF, emailed to questromra+2027@gmail.com, containing:

- A cover letter (maximum one page) describing
  - past experiences as a research assistant and/or with any independent research (e.g. thesis);
  - your familiarity with various statistical and computer packages/software;
  - the date on which you are available to start work; and
  - the names and contact information of two individuals who will be providing written references and how they know you. References for whom you have worked as a research assistant are preferred.
- A resume/CV
- Transcripts from all postsecondary education
- A list of courses on the transcript that are in economics, mathematics, statistics, or computer science. For each course, please include the name of the course, the date taken, the school at which the course was taken, and the main textbook(s) used in the course. Please include any courses you are currently taking.

In addition to the online application, please ask your two references to send a written letter of recommendation to questromra+2027@gmail.com. Letters are preferred as soon as possible after the submission of the application.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, though applications received by January 4th will receive priority. Short-listed applicants may be asked to complete a coding exercise and/or be called for an interview.