

EPIC Pre-Doctoral Fellowships

The Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC) invites applications for full-time pre-doctoral fellows for the academic year 2020-21. An interdisciplinary research and training center at the University of Chicago, EPIC is contributing innovative solutions to the global energy challenge: How can we ensure that people around the world, today and in the future, have access to reliable, affordable energy needed for human development without putting our health, environment and climate at risk? Previous results from EPIC projects have been influential with policymakers worldwide and featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and other leading publications.

Successful candidates will report to Koichiro Ito, Associate Professor at University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. Research projects will focus on evaluating various energy and environmental policies in the US, Japan, China, India, Chile, and other countries by using a variety of methods such as randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental research design, and structural estimation.

Responsibilities span all stages of research, including managing projects, collecting and analyzing data, creating presentations, and editing manuscripts. In addition to working closely with faculty as research assistants, pre-doctoral fellows are able to take graduate-level courses in economics and other disciplines and attend seminars at EPIC, the University of Chicago, and affiliate institutions.

The program is intended to serve as a bridge between college and graduate school for students interested in empirical economics. People in similar positions have gone on to Economics Ph.D. programs at Harvard, MIT, University of Chicago, University of California, Berkeley, Princeton, LSE, and similar schools upon completion of this program.

Applications for the fellowship are reviewed in fall and winter cycles. The winter deadline is January 20th, with final decisions made around March 1st. To apply, please visit <https://www.epicpredoctoralfellowship.com>.

Applicants must have completed a Bachelors or Master's degree by June 2020 and have strong quantitative and programming skills. Candidates with research experience are strongly preferred, especially those with experience in Stata, R, Python or Matlab. The ideal candidate would begin on June 1, 2020 and work for EPIC for one or two years before applying to graduate school in Economics or another quantitative social science. EPIC offers competitive salary and employee benefits.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do you offer visa sponsorship for international applicants?

Yes, EPIC sponsors work or student visas.

2. Are there any specific requirements for the writing sample?

There are no requirements for the length or topic of your writing sample. Many successful applicants submit economics research papers (e.g. a thesis, or term paper) that highlight their abilities in writing and empirical analysis.

3. What kind of applicant does EPIC look for?

Successful applicants have typically completed advanced coursework with high marks in economics, math, statistics, or computer science. Many pre-doctoral fellows have had past economics research experience at their university, or other research institutions such as the Federal Reserve, World Bank, J-PAL, or IMF. A demonstrated interest in energy and environmental economics is helpful, but not necessary.

4. Does EPIC offer summer research opportunities?

EPIC offers summer research fellowships to 2-3 undergraduates each year. Recruiting for summer fellows will begin in Spring 2020.