

Position: Full-Time Research Assistant

Please note that we have filled our position for the Summer 2020 start date. If you are interested in applying for this position for the Summer 2021 start date, please submit your application details using the instructions below. We look forward to reviewing your application

Description of Job Responsibilities:

Economics professors Dan Benjamin (University of Southern California), Miles Kimball (University of Colorado Boulder), Ori Heffetz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Kristen Cooper (Gordon College) and their co-authors employ a full-time research assistant at the University of Southern California with a start date during the summer of 2021. This position is ideal for individuals interested in behavioral economics research and likely to pursue a PhD in economics. Current research includes social science genetics as well as conducting surveys to shed light on what respondents mean when they answer questions about their own happiness, and developing theory and running experiments to understand people's biased beliefs about random processes. For examples of past research, see <http://www.danieljbenjamin.com/>. Research assistants are directly involved in the entire research process, including:

- Data analysis (Stata knowledge required, MATLAB knowledge a plus)
- Grant writing
- Experiment design and execution (including tasks such as assisting with formulating hypotheses to be tested; writing procedure documents for experiments; coordinating the location of and staff for experiments; managing participants' payments, etc.)
- Survey design and execution (including writing survey questions, testing website designs, liaising with market research firms, etc.)
- Background research and literature reviews for experiment/survey design and paper writing
- Data compiling and presentation (including designing figures for papers, paper editing, and the potential for small writing assignments, such as blog posts or data reports)
- Various administrative tasks central to the research process (including IRB applications, coordination of team activities, creation of efficient systems of management, etc.)

Required background:

- Knowledge of Stata, Excel
- Strong organizational and self-disciplinary skills
- A background in economics (undergraduate degree or at least 3 years of relevant experience)
- Leadership skills
- An interest in behavioral economics specifically
- Strong writing skills

Optional background:

- Knowledge of MATLAB and Latex
- Knowledge of various statistical analyses such as OLS, MLE, and PCA

Salary: \$56,000 (plus benefits)

To apply please submit the following documents, as a single pdf document, to cwatson.usc@gmail.com:

- (1) A cover letter describing your interest in and qualifications for the position (reference RFP:012)
- (2) your resume
- (3) an unofficial transcript, and
- (4) a paper you've written for a course, a research paper, or other writing sample.

The position will remain open until it is filled.