

6/21/2020

Dear Economics Career Office,

My name is Chris Hume and I am a rising fourth year at the University of Virginia studying Systems Engineering and Economics. I am applying to the Economics Career Office Data Analyst role as I am deeply interested in a career in Data Analytics or Data Science and would love to apply what I have learned in the classroom at UVA and on previous Data Analytics projects to a real world experience which will help me grow as an analyst. I am beginning a data science intern role at Kimley-Horn and Associates in mid-July, however this internship has been downgraded to a part-time position due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and I am actively looking for more experience.

I believe that I would be a strong candidate for this role due to my coursework and project experience as a student in the UVA Department of Engineering Systems and Environment and previous experience with Data Science and Analytics through my internship with the Virginia Department of Transportation last summer. This previous semester, I took a class in the Department of Engineering Systems and Environment entitled System Evaluation. It focused on understanding datasets, the context behind the data collected, and statistical methods (and packages) to use in order to draw actionable conclusions from given data. The final project for that class involved determining whether or not there was a statistical difference in revenues and other factors after the Atlanta Falcons lowered food prices at their new football stadium. After doing a data walkthrough, running the appropriate tests, and working with a group to generate a client-focused presentation to show our findings, we got the opportunity to present our work to members of a Bain Consulting Group team who worked on the real project two years prior. I learned many techniques for truly trying to *understand* data in that class, and it made me realize that there is never truly one good answer to any data related question – each answer and recommendation depends on the needs of the client, or environment, or situation at hand. I truly appreciated going through this process, and would like to gain more experience in a similar environment. The Economics Career Office opportunity sounds quite similar, by “using statistical methods to analyze data and generate useful business reports,” “identify themes in the data with possible explanations,” “work with departmental managers to outline the specific data needs,” are all important steps in the data analysis process which I have had some exposure to, but would appreciate more experience.

Besides the intangible experience I have working with data, I have experience working with large datasets with Python and Excel, and would be eager and open to learning any new language necessary to work. I am deeply interested in a career in Data Analytics and am considering a Master’s degree in Data Science, and would like as much real-world experience as possible.

Thank you,

Chris Hume

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