

Full-Time Pre-doctoral Research Associate at Global Poverty Research Lab (GPRL)

I am seeking to hire a full-time Pre-doctoral Research Associate in the Department of Economics and GPRL at Northwestern University to begin in **July 2026**.

The Research Associate will be involved in all aspects of research studying labor markets, market power, and social protection in developing countries, and will work closely with me and my co-authors. Responsibilities include collecting and analyzing large administrative datasets, designing and implementing surveys and randomized controlled trials, and conducting background research and literature reviews. There may also be opportunities for field travel to India.

The RA will work on projects that closely combine theory and data, with opportunities for involvement in both. Sample questions I study include:

1. The causes and consequences of gender gaps in the labor market (such as the effect of maternity leave policies on women's careers)
2. The nature and drivers of informality in the labor market
3. The drivers of unemployment in developing country labor markets
4. The evolving nature of gig work, and the impact of AI on developing country markets

The position does **not** require a background in economics, and I strongly encourage candidates with strong technical skills and an interest in economics to apply. The position is ideally suited for candidates who plan to apply to Ph.D. programs in economics or a related field.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate boundless enthusiasm for empirical research, including handling and analyzing large data sets, strong coding skills, and the ability to independently solve challenging problems. Independence is highly valued. Coding proficiency in Stata is required. Experience with Python, R, and web scraping is a plus.

Pre-Doctoral Research Assistants are fully integrated into the research community at the Global Poverty Research Lab and Economics at Northwestern. Previous research associates at the lab have placed into top econ Ph.D. programs including at Harvard, UC Berkeley, and the University of Chicago, among others.

How to Apply

Please submit your application using [this form](#).

Submit the following materials in a **single combined PDF**. The title of your PDF should be "RA_Application_firstname_lastname.pdf".

- CV (please list your GPA from each degree)
- Cover letter, which should be no more than one page in length and include a detailed explanation of your experience relevant to the position
- An excerpt from a writing sample no more than 5 pages in length
- Coding sample in Stata
- Transcripts (unofficial or official)
- Contact information for two professional references (email and phone number)

We will review applications on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Questions should copy Shrushti Dhoot (shrushti.dhoot@northwestern.edu).

Northwestern university is an equal opportunity employer, and consideration will be given to all applicants without regard to age, disability, marital status, color, race, religion, national origin, sex, veteran status, or any other protected category. The position may be able to sponsor a successful international applicant for a J-1 visa.