

Reed Garvin
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Hiring Manager
Stack Data Strategy
Aldgate, London

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am reaching out to express my genuine interest in the Data Scientist position at Stack, motivated by your innovative application of data science to navigate and influence public opinion on a global scale. I am currently completing my Master's in Data Science for Public Policy at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, with my graduation scheduled for June 24th, 2024. I plan to relocate to London in shortly thereafter and will be available to start work from July 1st, 2024. Additionally, I will, starting in May, hold the High Potential Individual Work Permit for two years, I am a US citizen and additionally hold the right to work in Canada and Germany. Following a year of employment, my objective is to switch to a Global Talent Work Permit, which will allow me to continue working without requiring sponsorship.

Why I Am Applying & How I Can Help Stack Succeed:

My career, underscored by a proven track record in leading projects to develop and deploy analytical models, has been dedicated to turning complex data into actionable insights. This is evident from my role at PD Berater der Öffentlicher Hand, where I managed data-driven projects for the German Federal and State Ministries, including the development of an internal and external dashboard for the state of Hessen showing the sport facilities, what they have to offer and their funding (internal only), <https://www.sportatlas-hessen.de>. My educational background, enriched by courses such as "Bayesian Hierarchical and Latent Variable Modeling," aligns seamlessly with the technical and creative demands of your data science team. I am particularly excited about the prospect of contributing to Stack's development and optimization of predictive models, leveraging my comprehensive experience with Python, R, and Bayesian statistics, to pioneer new methodologies in understanding and influencing public opinion. Lastly, my blend of both data science and policy skills give me the ability to clearly communicate with ease for policy makers who may not understand the data science but just want to focus on the data's results for political decisions.

Factors Contributing to the Inaccuracy of Political Polling in the US:

1. **Popular vs Electoral College:** Regardless of how accurate polling can be, it is still limited by the federalization and US electoral college meaning, that in both Bush's and Trump's elections the popular vote was not won but the electoral college and thus election was.

2. **Social Desirability Bias:** The tendency of respondents to alter their responses to align with perceived societal expectations, especially when asked at an exit poll or in a public interview, significantly distort polling results, particularly on hot button issues.

3. **Sampling, Modeling and Weighting Errors:** Adequately capturing and adjusting for the complexities of voter behavior and demographic shifts remain pivotal challenges, which is further exacerbated in a federal system where people may have different views on the same federal and state policy. This is compounded by evolving communication channels and media consumption habits, necessitating innovative approaches to model development and data interpretation, as well as a shift away from traditional polling methods, Landline phones (etc.), causing challenges in obtaining accurate samples.

I am eager to bring my analytical prowess, problem-solving capabilities, and passion for political science to Stack, where I am confident, I can support your mission to redefine the landscape of public opinion research. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my background, skills, align with the goals of your team.

Best regards,

Reed Garvin