

Shreeyesh Menon
University of Texas at Austin
Department of Economics
2225 Speedway
Austin, TX 78712
Email: shreeyesh.menon@utexas.edu
Website: <https://ssm-econ.github.io/>

Oct 30, 2025

Dear Recruitment Committee,

I hereby apply for the position of Assistant Professor of Economics. I am a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Austin and expect to graduate by July 2026. My research interests are in macroeconomics and monetary economics, with a focus on the role of expectations and belief formation. Please find enclosed my job market paper “Keeping up with the Curve: Learning, Changing Perceptions and the Anchoring of Expectations” in which I study the role of learning and agents’ expectations-formation using a forward-looking New Keynesian model to explain the recent post-pandemic inflation surge in the United States, with a particular emphasis on why it differed markedly from the inflation crises of the 1970s and 80s. I find that changing perceptions about the Federal Reserve’s stabilization preferences based on its conduct of systematic monetary policy have played a crucial role in shaping private-agents expectations, preventing their long-run inflation expectations from de-anchoring. My larger research agenda focuses on adapting ideas from the statistical learning and information theory literature and applying them to advance our understanding of how economic agents form expectations.

As an instructor, I aim to connect fundamental economic reasoning with modern statistical tools from data science. I have been involved with the course *Python, Databases and Big Data* as a Teaching Assistant for four semesters, also having taught the new offering in the department *Data Mining and Statistical Learning*. My focus has been to develop a greater appreciation for economic reasoning by empowering students with modern tools in statistics and machine learning so that theory and practice go hand-in-hand. Beginning with raw data and a research problem, in each class students deliberated about econometric methodology, the assumptions that go into the model and practical data-management skills while I guided discussions. This approach was met with enthusiasm from students, building their confidence in using economic theory as a lens to understand the world around them. I have also taught other applied courses such as *Urban Economics* and *Energy Economics* with a similar approach.

Thank you for considering my application. I look very much forward to hearing from you.