



Social Scientist

[The Lab @ DC](#) seeks a Social Scientist. This person has a deep understanding of at least one policy-relevant field of study as well as advanced technical abilities related to experimental design and analyses. The Social Scientist thinks creatively and strategically about how insights from research literature can be transformed into policy and program designs that achieve District priority goals and develops and executes projects to rigorously measure how well those policies and programs work. The Social Scientist is a team player who wants to use scientific tools to make a positive difference in DC residents' lives, particularly for historically disadvantaged populations.

The Lab @ DC is a scientific team in [Mayor Muriel Bowser's administration](#), based in the [Office of the City Administrator](#). The Lab was created because DC residents deserve a government that asks questions, tests policies, and iteratively improves how it serves the community. The Lab @ DC approaches its projects in four ways, often used in combination to maximize impact and make the most of our learning opportunities:

- Randomized evaluations;
- Predictive modeling;
- Resident-centered design; and
- Administrative data analysis

The team also supports leadership with making informed policy decisions and annual budget decisions based on evidence.

Duties:

- Implements evaluation projects, including coordination of Lab staff, and agency and university partnerships.
- Identifies and capitalizes on opportunities to harness social science approaches to provide insight into and achieve District priority goals.
- Summarizes findings from the research literature and thinks creatively about how such findings can be applied in District policy and program settings.
- Designs, implements, and analyzes policies and programs, including randomized controlled trials (RCTs), quasi-experimental analyses, and other methodologies as appropriate.
- Presents results of Lab work through engaging and accessible oral, written, and visual methods.
- Proactively provides ideas and critical feedback—as well as being open to such constructive dialogue—as part of constantly improving The Lab @ DC and its collective work output.
- Ensures that work product adheres to methodological and open science best practices.
- Writes descriptions and summaries of The Lab @ DC projects for diverse audiences,



including scientific experts, editors of peer reviewed journals, government practitioners, and public stakeholders.

- Helps to disseminate scientific lessons, tools, and best practices across District government.

Qualifications:

- Subject matter expertise in at least one social science field of relevance to local government, for example, topics from psychology, sociology, economics, public health, public policy, urban design, criminal justice, etc.
- Strong public service orientation.
- Expertise in experimental design, including issues of sampling, randomization, statistical inference, and field research.
- Proficiency in quasi-experimental program evaluation methods and proficiency in qualitative research.
- Expertise with at least one statistical programming language, such as R, Python, Stata, or similar. Preference for applicants to use or be willing to learn R or Python.
- Commitment to and open science practices, including topics such as the need for registration of pre-analysis plans. Preference for applicants who have demonstrable experience creating and registering pre-analysis plans on the Open Science Framework or similar platforms.

Education and Experience:

- A Ph.D. or ABD from an accredited college or university in psychology, sociology, political science, statistics, economics, mathematics, or other social science field.
- Experience working within government or in partnership with government stakeholders preferred.

Work Environment:

The Senior Social Scientist must be located in Washington, DC and able to work consistently in the Lab's office. Work is typically performed in an office setting. However, attendance at designated meetings on days, evenings, and weekends may be required.

Term:

The Lab seeks someone who is currently at an institution of higher education who can commit to joining the team full-time through August 2020. The candidate would still maintain their employment/affiliation with their institution and The Lab would reimburse the institution for some/all of their time through a Personnel Exchange Agreement. The ideal candidate would have the opportunity to extend their term with The Lab for multiple years, pending available funds.

Apply:

Please fill-out our [interest form](#) in which you will upload your CV by October 15, 2019 at 11:59pm EDT. No need to include a cover letter. A performance task will be sent to all candidates.