



Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow Position

Position Description

Tim de Silva is looking for a predoctoral research fellow at the Stanford Graduate School of Business to begin in the summer or fall of 2026 and to be appointed for up to two years (one year, renewable for a second). Professor de Silva's research is in household finance, macroeconomics, behavioral economics, and public finance. You can find out more about his work on his website: <https://timdesilva.me/>.

The research fellow will be dedicated to Professor de Silva and will work closely with him. As part of the research process, the fellow will work in a team setting and have the opportunity to collaborate with other faculty members, PhD students, and fellows within the Stanford community, as well as those at several other universities, including MIT and UC Berkeley.

Ongoing projects that the research fellow will be involved in study topics such as the macroeconomic implications of frictions that lead to suboptimal decision-making, the optimal design of mortgage and student loan contracts, the determinants of households' housing and portfolio choice decisions, the role of AI as a source of financial advice, the implications of demographic change for households' financial decisions, and the determinants of household belief formation.

The fellow will contribute to this research through a variety of tasks, which may include collecting, managing, and cleaning administrative datasets; implementing econometric analyses; and developing and maintaining codebases to solve, simulate, and estimate dynamic quantitative economic models in C++ and Fortran.

In addition to research training, the fellow will have the opportunity to take one class for credit at Stanford each quarter. Over the course of the two-year fellowship, this amounts to taking 6-8 classes, and at the end, most fellows have training equivalent to the first year of the PhD in Economics or Finance. This significantly improves their preparation for future graduate studies in economics or finance.

Requirements

The ideal candidate will have a strong quantitative background with training in economics or a related field such as statistics, computer science, or engineering, along with exceptional programming skills in Stata, R, or Python, and the ability to work independently on research tasks. Previous research experience is a plus, and the position is well-suited for those considering graduate study in economics, finance, or related disciplines. Most importantly, the candidate must be intellectually curious, have a strong desire to excel, and possess strong communication and time management skills.

The application deadline is October 17th, 2025. Applications submitted after the deadline will be considered on a rolling basis.



Compensation

The research fellow is appointed as a non-matriculated graduate student at Stanford and can take up to one graduate-level course for credit per quarter. The fellowship offers tuition, health insurance, a living stipend (\$54,600 annually in 2024–25), and full university benefits.

Application Instructions

To apply, visit <https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/programs/research-fellows/admission> and select Professor de Silva under the Dedicated Track option. More details on this specific position can be found [here](#). The required materials for a complete application are as follows:

1. A short cover letter describing your interest in the position, your familiarity with programming languages, and your prior experience as a research assistant and/or with independent research projects. Note that the letter can be generic (not tailored to the details of this posting).
2. An up-to-date CV/resume.
3. An up-to-date official transcript and TOEFL scores, if applicable.
4. Two letters of recommendation.

Short-listed applicants will be contacted shortly after the application deadline to complete a technical exercise and a remote interview.