

Role: Data Science Research Assistantship

Desired Start Date: ASAP

About MCRIC

The University of Maryland Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center (MCRIC) seeks to establish partnerships with public agencies and private organizations across Maryland, integrating and analyzing data and conducting academic research analysis to develop and evaluate innovative strategies and policies aimed at reducing crime. MCRIC evaluates law enforcement strategies, as well as community violence reduction initiatives, identifying the most successful methodologies and approaches to help prevent and reduce crime.

MCRIC is an interdisciplinary initiative, drawing from a broad range of expertise ranging from the nation's #1 Criminology program to Computer Science, Information Studies, Artificial Intelligence, and Engineering, all Top 25 programs in the U.S., as well as Public Health, Business, and Social Work. MCRIC was launched in 2018 with support from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

MCRIC works with a variety of partners, including police and practitioners, lawmakers, academic peers, and industry, to promote data sharing, exchange knowledge and best practices, and develop new approaches. The University of Maryland aspires to make MCRIC the premier crime research center in the nation.

Job Summary

MCRIC is seeking a smart, motivated, and detail-oriented **data science research assistant** for a **10-month period** to work on a large-scale data project. The potential responsibilities for this role cover the full data science pipeline: from data cleaning, record linking, feature engineering, and predictive modeling. An ideal candidate will have experience extracting insights from data and communicating them to both technical and non-technical audiences. The position offers the opportunity to work directly with leading researchers at the University of Maryland and policymakers in the state.

Responsibilities:

- The data science research assistant will work closely with Assistant Professor Zubin Jelveh and other team members to construct a dataset of court cases in Maryland. Once constructed, the dataset will be used to develop predictive models for pretrial risk.
- The research team will have weekly meetings which the data science research assistant will also attend. Most meetings and work will be conducted virtually via Zoom or similar technologies.
- Assist in the preparation of memos, spreadsheets, manuscripts and presentations for a range of audiences including policymakers, publics, and academic researchers.
- Ensure that project deliverables are developed in an efficient and timely manner.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Preferred Qualifications

- 1+ years experience working with Python, Jupyter, and version control. Experience with Pandas is strongly preferred
- 1+ years working with databases
- Experience in data munging/cleaning
- Experience working with large and complex datasets
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present data in a simple and straightforward way for non-technical audiences required.
- Strong interpersonal skills required.
- Strong initiative and a resourceful approach to problem solving and learning required
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team in a fast-paced environment required
- Strong attention to detail with superb analytical and organization skills required
- Strong candidates will have at least a bachelor's degree in computer science, information science, statistics, data science, or a closely related field. However, extensive work experience with Python/pandas will also be considered

Application Documents:

Resume (required)

Cover Letter (required)

Coding Sample (required)

Writing Sample (required)

Transcript (required)

Please submit the required documents to zjelveh@umd.edu