Post-Doctoral Fellow

About Us

The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab are faculty-driven research centers that try to improve social conditions in American cities by partnering closely with local, state and federal government agencies to carry out the highest-quality scientific studies. The labs are led by Jens Ludwig and Harold Pollack of the University of Chicago, Jonathan Guryan of Northwestern University and Pat Sharkey of New York University, and carry out research projects in collaboration with a national network of leading experts in fields such as economics, public policy, sociology, behavioral science, and computer science. Examples of some of our past projects include: several randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of behavioral science interventions to reduce crime and dropout in Chicago (Heller, Shah, Guryan, Ludwig, Mullainathan and Pollack, 2017, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*), the results of which were cited by the *Washington Post* as one inspiration for President Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative; a RCT of a large-scale summer jobs programs for disadvantaged youth in Chicago (Heller, 2015, *Science*), which has helped inform Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s anti-violence initiatives; and a study that highlights the potential for improving the criminal justice system using machine learning methods, but also the new social science-type challenges that arise in exporting those tools to policy applications (Kleinberg, Lakkaraju, Leskovec, Ludwig and Mullainathan, 2018, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*), which has led to a partnership with New York City government to build a new citywide system to help judges make bail decisions.

We have a full-time staff of nearly 70 in offices located in downtown Chicago (across from city hall) and New York City, which includes PhD-level research directors, data scientists, and program managers. We are funded by research grants from foundations such as the Arnold, Joyce, MacArthur, McCormick, and Pritzker foundations, federal government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, US Department of Education and US Department of Justice, and private individuals, as well as ongoing core operating support from the University of Chicago. Previous Crime and Education lab projects have been featured in national news outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, PBS News Hour, and National Public Radio.

The Crime and Education Lab is part of the University of Chicago’s Urban Labs, a set of highly synergistic labs focused on undertaking inquiry and having impact on five areas of urban life: crime, education, health, poverty, and energy & environment (https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/). We also are able to capitalize on the unique intellectual environment of the University of Chicago itself, which has been one of the world’s leading research universities since its founding in 1890 by John D. Rockefeller with over 90 former students and faculty having been recipients

This position is located in New York, NY.
Job Summary

The Post-Doctoral Fellow will build and lead a portfolio of applied research projects in association with faculty members and research teams. They will lead research teams in the design, implementation, evaluation, and analysis of programs. They may be required to design rigorous research projects that answer policy-relevant questions, and develop long-range plans for research project, and to oversee the activities related to data collection and analysis.

Education

Applicants must have a PhD degree in public policy, economics, criminology, education, data science, computer science, statistics or other relevant field with substantial policy and research experience or defended your dissertation by Spring 2020. Applicants in the final stages of dissertation review will be considered.

Competencies

- Advanced knowledge in relevant scientific field required.
- Advanced knowledge of research techniques or methods required.
- Ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment required.
- Outstanding interpersonal skills and ability to maintain positive relationships
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to exercise sound judgment required.
- Strong time management skills with a proven ability to multitask and to prioritize activities to successfully complete projects on tight deadlines with little supervision.
- Knowledge of content areas – Crime and Education – strongly preferred

Experience

- Expertise in research design, methods, and evaluation of research projects in the area of social policy required.
- Ability to write and review code in Stata and/or R required.
- Familiarity with machine learning algorithms preferred.
- Ability to write and review code in Python preferred.

Required Documents

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Writing sample
- Transcripts

To Apply: Please submit a resume, cover letter, writing sample, reference contact information, and optional reference letters to UChicago’s Workday system, search for requisition JR07509. Please find instructions on how to access the application below. NOTE: When applying, all required documents MUST be uploaded under the Resume/CV section of the application.
• If you have questions about the Workday application system, please contact: https://uchicago.service-now.com/sso?id=ssc_sc_cat_item&sys_id=cf359d6713166660030c0bcaf3244b02d.

• If you have an active UChicago Workday employee account, you will need to complete the Internal Candidate application process. Internal Candidate instructions: Log into Workday and select the career worklet.

• External Candidates should apply to the specific Lab at https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External

The University of Chicago is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity/Disabled/Veterans Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, status as an individual with a disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, or other protected classes under the law.

Staff Job seekers in need of a reasonable accommodation to complete the application process should call 773-702-5800 or submit a request via Applicant Inquiry Form.