



The People Lab

2025 Summer Undergraduate Student Research Fellow: The People Lab

Position Description

[The People Lab](#), led by Professor Elizabeth Linos, aims to empower the public sector by producing cutting-edge research on the people of government and the communities they are called to serve. Using evidence from public management and insights from behavioral science, we study, design, and test strategies that can solve urgent public sector challenges in three core areas:

1. Strengthening the government workforce - how to recruit, retain and support diverse talent in the public sector that can effectively and equitably respond to the changing needs of residents.
2. Improving resident-government interactions - how to reduce barriers to equitable access to government services, mitigate the burdens that residents face when they interact with their government, and increase trust and satisfaction through such interactions.
3. Reimagining the production and use of evidence - how to better include historically excluded voices in the design, implementation and evaluation of government innovations, and support the equitable adoption of best practice at scale.

Most of our projects are co-designed with public sector partner agencies in order to ensure feasibility in the short-term and scalability in the long-term.

Summer Undergraduate Student Research Fellows for The People Lab will work closely with a diverse team of scholars who are passionate about conducting collaborative, applied, data-driven research on key priorities in government. Projects range from: how to recruit and retain a diverse workforce, how to reduce burnout in front line workers, and how to increase take-up of anti-poverty programs. Most studies involve a randomized controlled trial (RCT), and direct collaboration with government agencies and other stakeholders.

Tasks and Deliverables

Examples of activities a Summer Student Undergraduate Research Fellow will undertake, depending on skills and interests, include:

- Working with Research Directors and our partners to design and implement rigorous research designs, including randomized control trials (RCTs), survey experiments, and behavioral interventions.
- Data entry and support conducting econometric analysis on administrative data sets, survey data, and/or other sources of incoming data.
- Supporting authorship of academic papers, policy reports, presentations, and other publications by conducting literature reviews, editing or drafting text, writing up research results, and preparing manuscripts for publication.
- Assisting in researching and completing grant proposals.

Desired Qualifications and Experience

- Current undergraduate students only
- Strong interpersonal skills and communication skills, including exceptional writing skills
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work both independently and as a team member
- Eagerness and ability to learn new skills quickly on the job
- Experience working in the public sector or on public sector challenges
- Experience designing and conducting online surveys
- Demonstrated experience meeting project timelines across multiple projects and communicating with internal and external stakeholders in a productive, professional, and timely manner
- Ability to work with streams of qualitative and quantitative data across multiple projects
- Experience working on randomized controlled trials preferred
- Experience handling sensitive data securely preferred
- Demonstrated experience in quantitative data analysis, including cleaning new data sets and presenting data in various formats preferred

About the Center

The People Lab is housed at the [Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University](#). The Center aims to strengthen city leadership and governance, and serve as a hub of world-class programs, teaching, and research on cities. It brings together faculty, students, and expertise from around Harvard to engage in continuous interaction with practice.

About the Position

- Undergraduates will be compensated at \$19/hour.
- Research fellows are expected to work 40 hours per week for 12 weeks during the summer.
- We are open to in-person, hybrid, and fully remote arrangements depending on the circumstances.

To Apply

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to peoplelab@hks.harvard.edu and use the subject line "2025 Summer Undergraduate Student Research Fellow". **The deadline to apply is March 5, 2025, at 11:59 PM ET.**