

Research Associate | Frequently Asked Questions

The People Lab at HKS

When will applications be reviewed?

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

When should I expect to hear back from you?

Applicants can expect to receive an update within 4 to 6 weeks of submitting their application.

What are the education and work requirements for the role?

A bachelor's degree in public policy, economics, statistics, public administration, or a related field—and/or an equivalent combination of experience and training—is required. Candidates should have at minimum two years of full-time post-baccalaureate work experience and/or a related graduate degree. It is likely that the selected candidate will have more years of work experience and a graduate degree. Please review the full [Job Description](#) for detailed qualifications.

I worked as an RA while I was an undergraduate student. Does that count as part of the minimum work requirements?

No. This position requires a minimum of two years of full-time post-baccalaureate work experience and/or a related graduate degree.

Can I apply again if I have applied in the past?

Yes, previous applicants can re-apply and indicate this in the relevant question on the [Online Application Form](#).

Where is this position based?

This position is based at the Harvard Kennedy School campus, with some hybrid work options available.

Is the Research Associate Fellow role open to international candidates, or is U.S. Citizenship or Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR) required?

The Research Associate role is a full-time fellowship role and is open to international candidates and does not require U.S. Citizenship or LPR. In many cases, Harvard fellows who are not U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents have been hired under OPT or sponsored for J-1 visas. However, sponsorship is not guaranteed.

What happens next after I apply?

We have various screening and selection stages, including a first resume and cover letter screen, then data- and work-related exercises, and at least two rounds of interviews. You will be informed about the status of your application at each stage of the process.

Can I apply if I'm currently enrolled in an academic program, or are there part-time/summer internship opportunities available?

This is a full-time position that requires a full-time commitment. Unfortunately, we are not recruiting for part-time roles, internships, or summer fellowships at this time. If you're currently enrolled in an undergraduate, master's, or PhD program, we encourage you to follow us on [LinkedIn](#) or [BlueSky](#) and subscribe to our [Newsletter](#) to stay updated on future opportunities.

Can I speak to someone at TPL to learn more about this opportunity?

To ensure a fair and unbiased recruitment process, we do not hold one-on-one conversations during an open application cycle. You should also not expect a response if you've emailed a member of the team or Professor Linos. However, candidates will have opportunities to ask questions during the interview process. We've also designed the work exercises to provide a realistic sense of the role. We appreciate your interest and encourage you to apply via the [Online Application Form](#).