Each summer, a number of Williams College economics faculty members hire student research assistants (RAs), often through the College’s Class of 1957 Summer Research Program. The purpose of this message is to let you know about the existence of this summer economics research opportunity on campus, and to encourage you to apply for a position if interested.

What type of work would you do as a summer RA for a faculty member? There is a good deal of variety. You may search for, gather, and prepare data; read and summarize journal articles; work with a theoretical model; carry out econometric analysis; or write computer code. You’ll likely do some more routine work as well (photocopying, proofreading, entering data into spreadsheets). We try to make sure that every RA’s mix of tasks balances the most exciting and more mundane elements of economic research.

What are the conditions? The rate of pay is set by the college at $485 per week (minus taxes and required meal plan), with an expectation of full-time on-campus work for up to 9 weeks. Housing is provided. The precise dates and hours of work will be determined by you and the faculty member, but this year the College mandates that all RAs arrive on campus on June 14th. The expectation is that students will work on campus, but exceptions may be made in rare extenuating circumstances.

What should you do if interested? Fill out the form at this link. It will ask you for a short (<1200 character) explanation of why you want the job and a short description of your skills and experience. You will also be asked to upload a PDF of your transcript and optional resume. You may also wish to communicate with directly professors whose work particularly interests you, but all applications should be submitted centrally through the form above.

Given that the deadline for faculty to propose RA projects to the College for the Class of 1957 program is in mid-march, we will begin circulating information on applicants to economics faculty members on Thursday, March 11th. Therefore, applying by that date will maximize your chances of finding a position. Following this deadline, interested faculty will contact students to set up interviews / discuss positions. If you have general questions about the Class of 1957 program or other summer economics research opportunities, please direct them to Tara Watson (twatson@williams.edu). You can also look over the opportunities offered through the Fellowships office (fellowships.williams.edu).

Please note that we typically have many more applicants than positions available. There is no need to communicate with is to check in on the status of your application – a faculty member will contact you if you are being considered. If you have not heard from a faculty member by March 19th, you are unlikely to be offered a position this year. We hope you will consider applying again in the future.