

## Summer 2023 Class of 1957 Research Program in Economics

Each summer, many Williams College economics faculty members hire **student research assistants (RAs)**, often through the College's Class of 1957 Summer Research Program. Please apply for a position if you are interested! The program is open to current students who are not graduating in June 2023.

**What type of work would you do** as a summer RA for an economics faculty member? It varies! You might search for, gather, and prepare data; read and summarize journal articles; work with a theoretical model; carry out econometric analysis; or write computer code. Qualifications that are most in demand are econometrics and programming skills, so having taken those courses can make you a stronger candidate, but students with all skill sets are encouraged to apply. You'll likely do some more routine work, as well (photocopying, proofreading, entering data into spreadsheets, etc.). Professors typically try to make sure their RA's mix of tasks balances more mundane work with work that is more intrinsically engaging. When discussing a potential summer RA position with you, a professor will explain more precisely what you will be expected to do if you work with them.

**What are the conditions?** The rate of pay is set by the College at \$535 per week (minus taxes and required meal plan), with an expectation of full-time on-campus work (35 hours/week) for up to 9 weeks. Housing on campus is provided if desired, and is available June 13 – August 20. The precise dates and hours of work are determined by the professor and the RA, but a typical 9-week schedule would run June 19 – August 18. The expectation is that students will work on campus. More information is available [here](#). Professors also sometimes have separate grant funds that would allow them to hire students on different terms (e.g., a different length of time or work schedule).

**What should you do if you are interested?** Fill out the form [at this link](#) by **Sun Feb 12**. 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. **It's also a good idea to talk directly to professors** whose work particularly interests you in addition to filling out this form, but you must still apply through the form linked above.

**What happens after that?** After the deadline, interested faculty contact students to set up interviews and discuss positions. Hiring decisions are typically made between late February and mid March.

If you have general questions about the Class of 1957 program or other summer economics research opportunities, please direct them to Sarah Jacobson ([saj2@williams.edu](mailto:saj2@williams.edu)).

Please note that we typically have many more applicants than positions available. There is no need to check the status of your application – a faculty member will contact you if you are being considered. This will usually happen by early March because that is when faculty must submit requests for the Class of 1957 Research Program funds. If you have not heard from a faculty member by March 31st, you are unlikely to be offered a position this year. We hope you will consider applying again in the future.

**What if you missed the deadline?** Some professors who have external grant funding may still be looking to hire research assistants, so you can ask around among professors to see if any of them are still hiring. You can also look at the opportunities offered through the [Fellowships office](#).