Each summer, several 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.

The rate of pay is set by the college at $460 per week, with an expectation of full-time work for up to 10 weeks. The precise dates and hours of work will be determined by you and the faculty member. The College provides housing and there are meal plans available for purchase.

What should you do if interested? First, learn about the research being conducted by faculty members in the department. Take a look at the webpages of particular faculty members (http://econ.williams.edu/people/) and talk to those with whom you’ve taken classes or whose research you find particularly interesting. Second, respond to this email with information on the following items:

1. Particular areas of interest or relevant coursework. Many but NOT ALL projects rely on familiarity with intermediate economics and/or econometrics/statistics. You may submit an informal transcript but it is not required.
2. Williams faculty members, particularly in Economics, who are familiar with your abilities relevant to being an RA.
3. Previous experience, if any, you have as a research assistant, either at Williams or elsewhere. Include the name and contact information of your supervisor(s). Include any information about the research you feel is relevant.
4. Your skills and experience with various computer packages (spreadsheets and econometric packages) as well as any computer programming skills and experience.
5. (Optional) A resume

Please submit this material to Helen McShane (Helen.A.Mcshane@williams.edu).

Given that the deadline for faculty to propose RA projects to the College for the Class of 1957 program is Friday, February 21, we will begin circulating information on applicants to economics faculty members on Friday, February 14. Therefore, applying by NOON on 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 Steven Nafziger (snafzige@williams.edu). You can also look over the opportunities offered through the Fellowships office (fellowships.williams.edu).