



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

The Department of Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park is recruiting two trainees for a new pre-doctoral program. This program will bring students to campus for one year of research experience under faculty supervision and for advanced course work. Trainees who successfully complete the pre-doctoral year will be invited to enroll in the UMD PhD program (with full funding) without further application. The program seeks to prepare students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the economics profession for graduate work by providing relevant research experience and the opportunity to take additional courses, such as upper-level math and statistics, and to promote long-term investment in mentoring that extends from the pre-doctoral year through completion of the PhD.

This is a 12-month position beginning in August 2024. The application process will assess suitability for the predoctoral training program and readiness for our PhD program in economics with an additional year of research experience and course work. Trainees who make progress consistent with our expectations of incoming PhD programs will have the opportunity to begin PhD studies in economics at the University of Maryland in August 2025.

During the pre-doctoral year, trainees will provide research assistance to one or two faculty in their fields of interest. Potential projects include working with Dr. Boragan Aruoba on empirical macroeconomics; with Dr. Jessica Goldberg on the design, implementation, and analysis of a randomized evaluation of a women's economic empowerment initiative in Tanzania; with Dr. Guido Kuersteiner on new methods in econometrics; with Dr. Daniel Reck on either tax compliance or an experiment to learn about reference dependent preferences; and with Dr. Chenyu Yang on modeling government procurement efficiency. Other opportunities are available and we welcome applications from students interested in all fields of economics.

Trainees will receive a salary of \$45,000 for the 12-month pre-doctoral appointment. The trainees will be eligible for UMD benefits, including medical, prescription, and dental plans. Tuition for one course per semester is included in the compensation package, and trainees may attend class and complete some coursework obligations during the workday. Trainees will also participate in seminars with faculty and graduate students.

This program is funded in part by NSF Grant #SES2149328. It is an extension of the University's pipeline program Promoting Achievement and Diversity in Economics (PADE: <https://www.econ.umd.edu/undergraduate/promoting-achievement-and-diversity-economics-pade>). Pre-doctoral trainees will have the opportunity to interact with PhD students in the department and to serve as peer mentors for PADE undergraduates.

Successful applicants will have a bachelors' degree; solid performance in relevant coursework including intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, calculus 2, and econometrics; and a strong interest in pursuing a PhD in economics. Some prior exposure to research in economics or the social sciences and some statistical programming experience in Stata, R, Matlab, Python, or other packages, or experience with other programming and research methods for the social sciences are desirable. Additional training will be provided.

Applicants should submit an approximately two-page statement of purpose that describes their current course work preparation for graduate school in economics; any relevant research experience, including knowledge of statistical analysis packages and other programming tools; and research interests, whether specific research questions or more general topic areas. The statement should also address the ways in which the applicant would contribute to diversity in the economics profession, which could include through intended areas of research, a unique perspective or set of personal experiences, and/or mentoring students who are underrepresented in the profession. Applicants also should submit copies of transcripts from the institution or institutions they have attended during their college career. **These materials should be submitted in a single email to [jagold@umd.edu](mailto:jagold@umd.edu) with the subject line "PADE Pre Doctoral Application – ApplicantLastname."**

Applicants should ask one college professor or research supervisor to submit a **letter of recommendation that addresses suitability for pre-doctoral training and a subsequent PhD at the University of Maryland by email to [jagold@umd.edu](mailto:jagold@umd.edu), with the subject line "PADE Pre Doctoral Recommendation -- ApplicantLastname."**

Short-listed applicants may be asked to complete a statistical or programming task specific to their field of interest. **Applications are due by March 22.**