

# Microsoft Research Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant

## Economics and Computation

Microsoft Research invites you to apply for two-year full-time pre-doctoral research assistant positions in economics and computation in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and New York City. To apply, please complete this form by **November 15, 2021** at 11:59PM Eastern Time: [aka.ms/EconPredocApplication](https://aka.ms/EconPredocApplication).

### Working at Microsoft Research

Microsoft Research (MSR) is an academic research lab within Microsoft. Our mission is to generate socially impactful research and innovation. Like many economics pre-doc programs at universities, you will do academic research for peer-reviewed journals, have the opportunity to take classes at local universities (e.g. Harvard, MIT, or Columbia) to bolster your transcript, and expand your programming expertise before pursuing a PhD. MSR has three additional advantages:

- We can work with exciting internal Microsoft data.
- MSR New England and New York are interdisciplinary research labs, including leading scholars in computer science, machine learning, computational biology, mathematics, and media studies. Every day in the office, you will do economics but also have the chance to learn from other disciplines.
- You will work with multiple researchers, not just one, on different kinds of projects.

Our [Cambridge lab](#) is in Kendall Square, right by MIT. Our [New York lab](#) is in the SoHo district. The labs are vibrant places. Every week, we have seminars in economics, machine learning, and other fields, as well as social events to get to know everyone. Our labs are diverse, and we warmly encourage applications from people who can strengthen our diversity in any way.

Our pre-doctoral research assistants (“pre-docs”) are currently working on projects such as:

- [ALICE](#): combining causal inference and machine learning
- [Project Ratio](#): quantifying the online news ecosystem
- [The Economics of Consumer Protection](#): measuring behavioral biases and evaluating policy implications

Our pre-docs work primarily with:

- [Hunt Allcott](#) (behavioral economics, public economics, applied microeconomics)
- [Greg Lewis](#) (industrial organization, market design, machine learning)
- [Markus Mobius](#) (media economics, social networks, experimental economics)
- [David Rothschild](#) (behavioral economics, media economics, political economy)
- [Vasilis Syrgkanis](#) (machine learning, econometrics, theoretical computer science)

Pre-docs also work with outside collaborators and visiting researchers. MSR visiting researchers have included Susan Athey (Stanford), Daron Acemoglu (MIT), Nageeb Ali (Penn

State), Dan Bjorkegren (Brown), Amitabh Chandra (Harvard), Stefano DellaVigna (Berkeley), Glenn Ellison (MIT), Matt Gentzkow (Stanford), Michael Grubb (Boston College), Ben Handel (Berkeley), Igal Hendel (Northwestern), Ken Hendricks (Wisconsin), Ali Hortascu (Chicago), Matt Jackson (Stanford), Jon Kolstad (Berkeley), Chris Neilson (Princeton), Denis Nekipelov (Virginia), Paul Niehaus (UCSD), Emily Oster (Brown), Rajiv Sethi (Columbia), Alan Sorensen (Wisconsin), Scott Stern (MIT), Elie Tamer (Harvard), Dmitry Taubinsky (Berkeley), and Michael Whinston (MIT).

Click [here](#) for more information about our team.

This is a two-year position starting in June 2022. We offer a salary competitive with other economics pre-doc programs. Our recent pre-docs have gone on to PhD programs in economics and other fields at Harvard, MIT, Berkeley, Stanford, Yale, and other top schools.

### Qualifications

- Applicants must be either U.S. citizens or permanent residents. (Unfortunately, this is a hard constraint, because we cannot sponsor a visa or OPT for this position.)
- Applicants must have bachelor's or master's degree by June 2022.
- Applicants must have strong quantitative skills. A degree in a quantitative field (such as applied math, statistics, economics, management science, physics, operations research, or computer science) is required.
- Applicants must have programming experience. Preferred languages include Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, and C#.
- Our most competitive applicants usually have material experience doing empirical research, perhaps through undergraduate research positions, honors theses, or previous full-time jobs.
- Applicants should be motivated to expand their knowledge and expertise in working with data—cleaning, describing, understanding, connecting with theory, analyzing, and presenting.
- Applicants should have a strong interest in pursuing a PhD in economics or a related field such as marketing or computer science.

### How to apply

To apply, please complete [this form](#) by **November 15, 2021** at 11:59PM Eastern Time. On that form, you'll tell us more about your background and experience, give the name of a reference, and upload a cover letter, CV, writing sample, and transcripts.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, we will contact a subset of applicants and invite them to do a data analysis challenge during the 48-hour period of their choice between November 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We'll also ask those applicants to request that their reference send a recommendation letter to [msrne-predoc@microsoft.com](mailto:msrne-predoc@microsoft.com) by November 28<sup>th</sup>. We plan to do interviews and make offers in December.

Microsoft Research New England Research and Development Center

