Gretler Fellows Application

DUE Mon, Oct 19

The Economics department is accepting applications for the **Gretler Fellows Program.** The Gretler Fellows program pairs undergraduate students interested in research with faculty members who have a need for a research assistant on a specific project. This is a competitive application process. Individuals chosen as Gretler Fellows will work on the specified project approximately 5 hours per week from October 2020 through June 2021 and earn a $2,000 stipend (awarded over 3 quarters), but will not be eligible to receive units.

To apply, you must submit the following to the **Career Connection office by** email to **econ-careerconnection@ucsb.edu with the subject line "Gretler Fellows":**

- **This application**
- **Resume**
- **Personal statement** explaining your interest in doing economic research (500-word max).
- **Unofficial transcript**

YOU WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED IF YOU ARE MISSING ANY OF THE MATERIALS LISTED ABOVE.

Timeline for Gretler Fellows Program

- Application due: Monday, Oct 19, by 5:00 PM
- Fellow notifications: Friday, October 23

A complete application (this application on top, resume, personal statement and unofficial transcript) is due no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, October 19th.

Name_____   Perm #_____ Year: **2 3 4** (circle one)

U-Mail _____   Major(s)_____

When do you plan to graduate? _____

A faculty panel will review all applications, and will pair students with faculty members.

A list of faculty projects is listed on the following page(s). Please review all projects and rank each one.

Please rank your interest in all of the following faculty research projects from 1-7;
1 being most interested and 7 being least interested.

_____ Professor Dick Startz

Professor Startz is looking for an RA to work on two projects. Helping with preparation of short postings on the economics of education at the Brookings Institution. An example can be seen at https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2020/04/21/coronavirus-poses-serious-financial-risks-to-us-universities/ and writing computer programs to perform simulations of statistical problems. **Candidate should have reasonable computer fluency, including the ability to program in R. Familiarity with other software such as Stata would be a bonus. Candidate should have taken Economics 140A. The ability to work independently with attention to detail is important.**

_____ Professor Heather Royer

Professor Royer is looking for a Gretler Fellow to help with work studying the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the plight of the disadvantaged in Santa Barbara County. Tasks will include a literature review, creating/administering surveys, and data organization. Having skills in STATA (please identify your level of proficiency) would be seen as a plus. Also, there will be opportunities to be involved in other projects as time allows. I'd prefer (but not require) someone to be present near campus to help in the administering of surveys at the Foodbank so stating where you will be at least this fall would be useful. **Much of the work will involve basic data entry in Excel and later will involve compiling and cleaning the data in STATA.**

_____ Professor Peter Kuhn and Trevor Osaki

Professor Peter Kuhn and Trevor Osaki would like to involve an undergraduate student in the project described in the attached pre-analysis plan. They have finished collecting the data and could involve the student in categorizing the open text responses and doing some **simple statistical analysis**. Since they have the respondents' geo-locations, they might ask the student to **link each response to information about the location, such as labor market conditions, local racial mix, etc.**

_____ Professor Doug Steigerwald & Professor Ted Bergstrom

The project is to update studies of the usefulness of journal article download data for evaluating scientific journal articles. This is of particular usefulness for libraries in deciding which academic journals are worth spending their subscription money on. We have written two articles on this subject, one "Trusting the fox to count your hens" coauthored by Steigerwald, Alex Wood-Doughty (a former grad student) and me can be found at https://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/article/view/17824/19653
A second paper, "Looking under the Counter for Overcounted downloads", which is coauthored by Kristin Antelman (the UCSB head librarian), Richart Uhrig (current UCSB grad student) and me is attached. We haven't published this one but are planning to update it. Our earlier article has become quite influential and a major library service, Unpaywall, that helps libraries evaluate journals is planning to use it as part of its evaluation process. All of our numbers are now two or three years old and this is a fast-developing area, so we need to update both papers. **Candidate should have a strong background in econometrics and statistics and be good at data management. Programming skills would also be desirable. We think there would be substantial learning by doing for a student who participates in this project.**

_____ Professor Aliza Tazhitdinova

Professor Aliza Tazhitdinova is working on a project that studies mobility of individuals in response to tax incentives, across countries. She is looking for a student who would help collect tax rate information and other relevant details for various OECD countries, as well as immigration rules in Canada over time. **Basic knowledge of Stata is desirable but not absolutely necessary.**

_____ Professor Javier Birchenall

Title: The economics of lowest-low fertility rates

Description: After a demographic transition that began in the 18th century, more than half of Europe's population now lives in countries with fertility rates below replacement. This project seeks to survey the ongoing debate surrounding the causes behind their "lowest-low" fertility. Demographic research has dominated the discussion so far. The project is hence exploratory and requires a critical reading of economic and demographic research. **No particular technical skills are needed, but organizational skills are a plus.**

_____ Professor Peter Rupert

Professor Peter Rupert is working on a couple of projects. The first concerns the effects of taxes and regulation on legal cannabis sales. Since different states have different rules and those rules have changed over time, it may be possible to understand the elasticity of drug use. The second project is to understand how the shutdown due to the pandemic has changed the shape of business, remote work, real estate, etc.