Doctoral Research Fellowship
Economic Opportunity, Education, and Place-Based Strategies

Fellowship Overview: EdRedesign and Opportunity Insights (OI) are excited to announce a new joint research fellowship for Harvard University PhD students. The fellowship's goal is to combine the power of "big data" research with the expertise of practitioner organizations to improve evidence on social and economic mobility for children and youth. This fellowship will provide the selected student with a stipend at the Harvard Griffin GSAS rate for one semester, with an opportunity for continued funding for a second semester depending on project feasibility and research progress. This support aims to allow the student to devote full attention to their research, free from other commitments, with the goal of making substantial progress on a research paper during the fellowship period. Fellows may also have the opportunity to continue their affiliation with OI and EdRedesign beyond the funded period.

The research topics will align with the research and activities of both EdRedesign and OI. We encourage applications from students that leverage administrative and big data to work on issues related to intergenerational mobility, economic inequality, collaborative action, and holistic youth development and education. Special interest is given to projects that evaluate place-based initiatives, particularly cradle-to-career partnerships supported by EdRedesign that focus on increasing economic opportunity, such as those that are in EdRedesign's Success Planning Community of Practice, Promise Neighborhoods, StriveTogether communities, and/or Purpose Built communities, among others.

Fellows will benefit from mentorship by OI research affiliates and interactions with affiliated faculty from both EdRedesign and OI. They will have opportunities to present their preliminary findings to OI and EdRedesign affiliates and to receive assistance in securing the necessary data resources to complete their project.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open to Harvard PhD students at the early or pre-dissertation stage in any field who have a strong quantitative background and an interest in conducting quantitative research to promote upward mobility. The fellow should have experience with causal inference methods through graduate-level coursework and prior research projects. Experience working with practitioner organizations or communities in some capacity is a plus. The research conducted during the fellowship may be part of the fellow's dissertation research.

Application Materials: All applicants should submit the following materials:
- Curriculum vitae.
- Names and contact information for two Harvard faculty references.
- Acknowledgement of any other funding commitments.
- A one-page proposal that describes: (1) one or two potential research questions the applicant plans to pursue and how these connect to themes related to economic mobility, big data, and place-based initiatives; (2) the methods and data that will be used to answer the questions; and (3) details on whether the data are already accessible or if access would need to be facilitated.
  Email all materials as a single PDF with the subject line "doctoral fellowship application" to lynne_sacks@gse.harvard.edu by 11:59pm Eastern on April 21st, 2024. We anticipate notifying applicants of final decisions by the end of April.

Please send any questions to Lynne Sacks, EdRedesign Research Director, at lynne_sacks@gse.harvard.edu.