Carleton UNIVERSITY | FACULTY OF Public Affairs

IPAF 4900: Research Experience Opportunity

Project Title: **Does hotness pay?**

Term: Fall, 2016

Supervisor: **Frances Woolley** **Unit: Economics**

Description of project: Understanding the influence of "hotness" on academic salaries

This project analyzes the influence of "hotness" (as measured by the presence of chili peppers on ratemyprofessors.com) on Ontario academic economists' salaries (using information from the Ontario salary disclosure website). Research assistance is needed to update an academic salaries dataset using information from the Ontario salary disclosure website and websites of individual economics departments for 2013, 2014 and 2015, to document the data, and to conduct and write up regression analyses.

Number of students required: 1 - 3

Research duties:
The research duties consist of (a) updating the academic salaries database (b) documenting the data collection methods and describing the data (c) producing and writing up descriptive statistics (d) running, interpreting and writing up regression analyses. The successful candidates will be expected to keep track of the hours spent on these research duties, and not spend more than 65 hours per term on these activities.

Learning and reflection activities:
As well as the research duties described above, students are expected to submit 1 to 2 page weekly progress reports, describing and reflecting upon their work during the week, meet with me once a week, and prepare a research essay (10 pages of text plus tables) using the academic salaries database. The topic for the research essay will be approved by (and, if desired, suggested by), the professor.

Learning outcomes:
The successful candidate will gain increased familiarity and confidence with Excel and STATA, learn about longitudinal and panel modeling, gain a deeper understanding of labour economics and econometrics, and have an opportunity to learn, by doing and observing, how to do academic research.

Evaluation Criteria:
Weekly 1 hour meetings with supervisor – 10 percent (evaluated weekly).
Weekly progress reports (best 10 out of up to 12 reports, worth 2 percent each, for a total of 20 percent – evaluated weekly)
Data collection and documentation – due at regular intervals throughout September and October, evaluated by November 1st – 10 percent.
End of term essay – 40 percent – due the last day of classes.

Skills or knowledge required:
ECON 4706 is essential. A good working knowledge of Excel and STATA is extremely important. Knowledge of labour economics is an asset.

Any required health and safety training: No.

Other considerations:

Application instructions:
Participants are selected on the basis of merit and fit with the research project. Please submit a CV, transcript, and cover letter indicating why you are interested in and qualified for this research experience to the undergraduate administrator of the unit listed above.

We will begin considering applications on June 20th, however we will continue to accept applications until all positions are full. Only students with a GPA of 9.5 or higher and at least third year honours standing will be considered.

To find out more about IPAF 4900, please visit: http://carleton.ca/fpa/ipaf-main/