

IPR Summer Research Assistant Program for Undergraduates

During the summer of 2002, the Institute for Policy Research will provide full or partial funding for undergraduate research assistants to work with IPR faculty fellows and faculty associates. This program is intended to supplement the existing use of undergraduate research assistants in faculty projects. IPR will also provide a one-week introduction to statistical computing at the beginning of the summer.

The purpose of the program is to increase the involvement of undergraduates in research at IPR. It is our hope that some of the participants will continue to work for faculty during the following academic year and/or write honors theses on topics of interest to IPR.

Financial Support:

Students will be paid a weekly stipend of \$280 per week and be expected to work 35 hours per week for 12 weeks. Students working less than 35 hours per week will receive a prorated stipend.

Eligibility:

The program is open to Northwestern freshmen, sophomores, and juniors.

Application Process:

Interested students should apply directly to IPR faculty fellows and faculty associates (see web site at www.nwu.edu/IPR/people). They should provide a Northwestern transcript as well as a cover letter and resume that describe their educational experience, computer background, and work experience. Faculty will then apply to IPR. The application will consist of the materials supplied by the undergraduate and a one-page letter describing the project the undergraduate will work on and how that student will be utilized, and the fraction of the costs that the faculty member can provide.

Applications should be sent to Ellen Whittingham, Institute for Policy Research, 2040 Sheridan Road, Evanston Campus.

Criteria for Selection:

Selection will be based on the student's record, the faculty member's proposed research, and the nature of work the student will do. Proposals to use undergraduates in field research, survey design and administration, or statistical analysis will receive equal consideration.

Timing:

Applications will be accepted until May 20, 2002, but IPR will begin making decisions on April 15th to make it easier for students to plan their summers. Resources are limited, which means that late applications will have a lower probability of funding.

Training:

At the beginning of the summer, an informal one-week course in statistical computing will be offered by IPR, with assistance from IT and Data Services. Students will be taught how to use the UNIX computer system and how to make use of the social science data archive and data services available on the Web. The computer languages SAS, STATA, and SPSS will be taught. We will also offer some instruction on "how to be a good RA". Students will be excused from the course if the supervising faculty member determines that the course is not relevant to the research project.