Gretler Fellows Application

due Wed, Oct 9

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 2019 through June 2020 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, North Hall 2119** or 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: Wednesday, Oct 9, by 5:00 PM
- Fellow notifications: Friday, October 18

A complete application (this application on top, resume, personal statement and unofficial transcript) is due no later than 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 9th.

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 pages. Please review all projects and rank each one.

Please rank your interest in all of the following faculty research projects from 1-11;
1 being most interested and 11 being least interested.

_____ **Professor Kelly Bedard**
Professor Bedard has requested assistance setting up a data set to explore the research productivity of academic economists. **The project will involve collecting, cleaning and constructing a comprehensive data set for highly ranked public universities in the United States.**

_____ **Professor Dick Startz**
Professor Startz is looking for an RA to provide support for a monthly blog post on the economics of education at the Brookings Institution, a century-old nonprofit think tank based in Washington, DC. (One such example can be found at https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2019/06/12/do-teachers-work-long-hours/.) The RA will be primarily involved in data collection and then initial analysis. **The Fellow should be comfortable downloading data from the web and re-arranging it for subsequent analysis. Econometrics at the level of Econ 140A and computer skills are a major plus. The RA must be comfortable working independently and communicating by email as well as in person.**

_____ **Professor Javier Birchenall**
The regional dispersion in U.S. vacancy and unemployment rates: This project measures and examines the cross-sectional dynamics of unemployment and vacancy rates for the main metropolitan areas in the US. The objective is to study how regional labor markets adjust to uninsurable shocks at levels that extent beyond the conventional aggregate labor market. The first part of the project will combine data from the help-wanted index (HWI) published by the Conference Board and merge it with Local Area Unemployment Statistics. **Knowledge of excel and stata are ideal.**

_____ **Professor Doug Steigerwald**
The research goal is to provide data to assess the effect of legalization of cannabis on the destruction of wildlands in California. **The ideal candidate will be able to assemble data, learn GIS to work with maps, and conduct preliminary econometric analysis. Initial work will focus on a literature search and data gathering.**

_____ **Professor Ted Bergstrom**
Professor Bergstrom is working on a project requiring help maintaining the website Green Tables and also to help analyze journal article download data supplied by the UC libraries. **No sophisticated tools are necessary, though skills with managing data and with web design would come in handy.**

_____ **Professor Heather Royer**
Professor Royer is looking for a student to help collect and process data to understand the effects of promotion policies for professors. In particular, we're looking at the effect of tenure clock stopping policies (i.e., policies that give parents extra time before they are up for their promotion evaluation) on promotion in the discipline of physics. **Much of the work will involve basic data entry in Excel and later will involve compiling and cleaning the data in STATA.**

_____ **Professor Aliza Tazhitdinova**

The goal of our research project is to document and explain trends in US state tax policy in the past 50 years. We are interested in learning how various tax rules (spanning from personal to corporate to alcohol/cigarette taxation and others) respond to changes in political system, economic conditions, and campaign contribution rules. Our working plan is first to collect the relevant tax rule information, economic condition indicators, details on political systems in given US states and campaign contributions. Then we will test various political economy and public finance models that prescribe specific relationships between tax regulations and political/economic conditions. We hope that the undergraduate student can help us with the data collection process. **Skills: Attention to detail, Perseverance in internet search, Basic knowledge of excel, Familiarity with scraping techniques is a plus but not required, Familiarity with Stata is a plus but not required.**

_____ **Professor Lint Barrage**

Professor Barrage is looking for help with a project, Quantifying the Macroeconomic Impacts of Climate Change. The first goal of this project is to produce a series of empirical estimates of the aggregate economic impacts of climatic risks and events, such as the public healthcare costs caused by hurricanes. The second, broader objective is to use these estimates to improve the empirical foundations of a macroeconomic climate-economy model I have developed and used in prior research (COMET model, see Barrage, 2018; 2019). Currently I am especially focused on the fiscal costs (or benefits) of climate change, including through adaptation (e.g., protective infrastructure for vulnerable military bases) and impacts on the costs of mandatory expenditure programs (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid). The project requires collecting and combining economic data, weather data, as well as climate model projections, and would thus expose the Fellow to a wide-ranging set of topics and data sources. **The ideal candidate would thus have the ability to collect and process data in Excel (CSV, etc.), ability or willingness to learn processing and managing data in Stata (or R or similar), interest and ability to also conduct background research, such as on institutional details of programs under study.**

_____ **Professor Peter Kuhn**

Professor Kuhn is looking for a student to help on a few projects

1. Need assistance in updating website references, tracking down and linking new research, and keeping the site's appearance and format up to date.

2. We're designing a web survey that elicits responses to various vignettes concerning labor market discrimination. Need help with some administrative tasks involved in getting the survey online, and with some preliminary data analysis. Work with open-ended survey questions that may require natural language processing, sentiment analysis, etc.

3. Need help with lab experiments on how individuals and teams respond to accelerating commission schedules. Need help running the sessions, and with basic data analysis as well.

Exactly how many of these projects students will be involved in (and when) will depend on our rate of progress in each of them.

_____**Professor Emanuel Vespa**

Professor Vespa is looking for students to help with tasks that may involve some of the following:

1. Help running the Experimental and Behavioral Economics Laboratory (e.g. helping manage the database of participants, checking that computers and the server are working properly) and help running sessions for experiments on behavioral economics.
2. Analyzing data from sessions in the laboratory. In laboratory experiments researchers often collect written statements from subjects. This could come in the form of conversations amongst participants (chats) or in the form of written recommendations on how to behave in a certain environment (advice).
3. Coding experiments zTree and oTree (runs on python) are the two software programs that are most commonly used as an interface in the laboratory. If the RA is interested in coding, we would guide them through the learning process.