DESCRIPTION

Do research with impact!
The Technology Science Team, led by Harvard Professor Latanya Sweeney, is hosting high-achieving summer research fellows to work on projects that expose the unforeseen consequences of technology. Fellows will tackle problems in the public interest such as privacy, election integrity, consumer protection, discrimination, and first amendment rights – how does technology complicate these issues?

Former Technology Science fellows and students have successfully identified vulnerabilities in voter registration websites, helped change Facebook’s data collection policies, pushed health insurance companies to examine their reporting requirements, and exposed the “Tiger Mom Tax” from Princeton Review’s SAT tutoring service. These issues sit at the intersection of technology and society. See techscience.org for more student projects.

PROJECTS

As a Summer Research Fellow you will have the opportunity to work on the following projects:

- Conduct re-identification experiments on environmental health studies. This involves re-identifying data subjects in health data believed to be anonymous using publicly available data
- Investigate the effect of state election policies, including voter registration websites and registration deadlines, on the election franchise
- Analyze misinformation and disenfranchisement operations on Twitter and Facebook. Map the social network of Twitter users (and bots) to analyze communication across and within social networks
- Build a tool to uncover any efforts of misinformation campaigns through internet ads. Develop software and designing outreach efforts to recruit participants in a study to track the specific political and non-political ads individuals receive
- Examine how more than 2 million political ads targeting American voters online are shaping American democracy. Students will work on programming the infrastructure and interface for the Political Ads Library website and analyzing a rich dataset of text, images, and videos of political messages from more than 70,000 advertisers

QUALIFICATIONS

Basic qualifications:
- Strong academic background in undergraduate studies
- Basic social science knowledge (e.g. sociology, political science), public policy, statistics, or computer science
- Ability to work independently and in team settings
- Strong communication and writing skills in producing research reports

Other qualifications for specific project needs:
• Previous research experience in data collection and analysis techniques from coursework or employment. Students without prior research experience may also apply.
• Programming knowledge in data analysis, visualization, web scraping, and web design (any language)

We highly encourage students from underrepresented groups and minorities to apply. We currently cannot accept international applicants who need visa sponsorship, but please contact Ji Su Yoo (jisuyoo@fas.harvard.edu) if you have any questions.

LOGISTICS & COMPENSATION

• We offer a stipend of $5000 for the 10-week program and a travel stipend of up to $500.
• Housing will be provided on Harvard campus at no additional cost.
• Summer Research Fellows are required to be on-campus for the 10 weeks between June 10, 2019 – August 16, 2019.

APPLYING

If you are interested in applying:
1. Please go to http://techscience.org to get background knowledge of research in Technology Science
2. Email resumes / CVs and a cover letter to jots_techsci@gmail.com with the following subject line: “[First Name], [Last Name] – Technology Science Application”
3. In your cover letter, include which projects you would be most interested in working on. We cannot guarantee that you will work on the project you prefer, but we will try our best to match you with your interests should you be accepted into the program.
4. We will follow-up with you shortly afterwards! Thank you for your interest.