2003-2004
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Dissertation Fellowships

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) dissertation fellowship program is designed to encourage graduate students in statistics, economics, and survey methodology to develop interests and begin research in areas of survey design and analysis. The BLS anticipates funding two fellowships per year.

Eligibility Criteria
Applicants for fellowships must have successfully passed their departmental Ph.D. qualifying examinations, and should have completed almost all coursework. Applicants must submit detailed research proposals for competitive evaluation by a peer review board representing the BLS and academia. The proposals should be in topics of interest to the BLS, such as the design and analysis of complex sample surveys, small domain estimation, nonresponse, measurement error, price index theory, seasonal adjustment, or economic measurement. Proposals for research that would make efficient use of confidential BLS microdata or other BLS-specific resources are especially encouraged.

Conditions of Appointment and Benefits
Dissertation fellows will conduct their research at the Washington DC headquarters of the BLS. The researchers will be employees of the BLS. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Full-time salary will generally be at the GS-11 level (currently $46,469 - $60,405 per year). Benefits include health and life insurance, a 401(k) type pension plan, and paid vacation.

Travel between the BLS and the home university on a periodic basis is expected, and will be financed by the BLS.

The fellowship appointment is expected to be for one year full time (starting anytime between May 15 and December 31, 2003). Extensions of the fellowship for up to one additional year are possible.

U.S. citizenship is required.

Applications
The application deadline is December 1, 2002. The following information is required of all applicants:
1) A letter of interest outlining the proposed research (1-2 pages).
2) Graduate school transcript, three letters of recommendation, and a current curriculum vita.

Initial screening of applicants will be carried out by BLS researchers with expertise in statistics, economics, and survey methodology. Applicants will be evaluated on academic performance, the scientific merit of the proposal, the feasibility of the proposed work, and the value of the proposed research to the BLS and the academic community.

Candidates passing the first screening step will be asked to submit a detailed research proposal by March 1, 2003. These detailed proposals will be peer reviewed by a panel composed of BLS and academic researchers.

For further information or to submit applications, please contact:

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