Position: Full-Time Research Assistant at NBER / UCLA

Description of Job Responsibilities:
Economics professors Dan Benjamin (University of California, Los Angeles), Miles Kimball (University of Colorado Boulder), Ori Heffetz (Cornell University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Kristen Cooper (Gordon College) and their co-authors employ a full-time research assistant with a start date during the ***Summer of 2023***. The research assistant can choose to be based in either Cambridge, MA (NBER) or Los Angeles, CA (UCLA). This position is ideal for individuals interested in behavioral economics research and likely to pursue a PhD in economics. The previous research assistants from across Dan Benjamin's Full-Time Research Assistant positions have gone on (in the last five years) to top PhD programs in Economics and related disciplines at Harvard (4x), MIT, Stanford, Yale (2x), UChicago, Columbia (2x), UPenn – Wharton, NYU (2x), UCSD, Maryland, and UCSF, two of them with support from an NSF fellowship, and one with support from the Knight-Hennessy Scholarship.

Current research focuses on conducting surveys to shed light on what respondents mean when they answer questions about their own happiness, and on developing methods to use such survey responses to measure personal and national well-being. Research assistants might also help with other projects in behavioral economics (e.g., developing theory and running experiments to understand people's biased beliefs about random processes). For examples of past research, see http://www.danieljbenjamin.com/, or this interview with Miles Kimball. Research assistants are directly involved in the entire research process, including:
• Data analysis in R and Python
• Econometric modeling and analysis
• Grant writing
• Experiment design and execution (including tasks such as assisting with formulating hypotheses to be tested; writing procedure documents for experiments; coordinating the location of and staff for experiments; managing participants' payments, etc.)
• Survey design and execution (writing survey questions, testing website designs, liaising with market research firms, etc.)
• Background research and literature reviews for experiment/survey design and paper writing
• Data compiling and presentation (including designing figures for papers, paper editing, and the potential for small writing assignments, such as blog posts or data reports)
• Various administrative tasks central to the research process (including IRB applications, coordination of team activities, creation of efficient systems of management, etc.)

Required background:
• Knowledge of one or more of R, Python, or STATA
• Strong work ethic and organizational skills
• A background in economics (undergraduate degree or at least 3 years of relevant experience)
• Strong econometrics, math, and statistics skills
• Ability to work independently and with minimal guidance
• An interest in behavioral economics specifically
• Strong writing skills

Optional background:
• Knowledge of Latex
• Familiarity with various statistical analyses such as OLS, MLE, and PCA

Location: NBER in Cambridge, MA or UCLA in Los Angeles, CA.

Salary: $61,500 (plus benefits)

To apply please submit the following documents, as a single pdf document, to benjaminrecruit@gmail.com:
(1) A cover letter describing your interest in and qualifications for the position. Please make sure to reference ***RFP:23BE*** in your cover letter and in the subject line of your email.
(2) your resume
(3) an unofficial transcript
(4) a paper you've written for a course, a research paper, or other writing sample, and
(5) names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of 3 references (letters not required)

For our records, please also let us know where you found the job posting. The position will remain open until it is filled.