

February 2026

Professor Jesse Rothstein is hiring a **predoctoral research assistant** to take part in his academic and policy research. Rothstein is the Carmel P. Friesen Professor of Public Policy, the David P. Gardner Professor of Higher Education, and Professor of Economics, and serves as Faculty Director of the [Center for Studies in Higher Education](#) and the [California Policy Lab](#) at UC Berkeley. Examples of his research can be found [here](#).

The predoc will be involved in projects on a range of topics in labor economics and public policy, potentially including work on the economics of education, intergenerational mobility, the social safety net, determinants of wages and employment, and labor market and education policy. Data analysis will be a primary component of the job. This is a full-time position, with initial appointment of one year and the possibility of reappointment. The anticipated start date is July 2026, but earlier or later start dates are possible.

The appointment will be at the [Institute for Research on Labor Employment \(IRLE\)](#), and the RA will benefit from communities of researchers at IRLE, at the California Policy Lab, the Center for Studies in Higher Education, and throughout the university. The position may be particularly attractive to those considering graduate study in economics or public policy. Recent past Rothstein predocs have gone on to Ph.D. programs at Harvard, Princeton, and the University of Virginia.

Responsibilities

The Research Associate will assist Professor Jesse Rothstein's academic and policy research. This may include gathering, preparing, and analyzing research data; reviewing literature; editing drafts and presentations; and preparing charts, tables, and other visual aids. Duties will include:

- Cleans and prepares data sets, primarily from government sources, for analysis, using Stata and R.
- Analyzes research data; summarizes information; implements statistical approaches for labor economics and higher education research projects, under direct supervision.
- Prepares graphs, tables, and other displays of the results of research and analysis.
- Assists with preparation of reports and analyses, including gathering references, copyediting, and confirming internal consistency.
- Reviews academic and applied research, and prepares research collections for PI review.
- Assists with design, documentation, and implementation of quantitative empirical research studies.
- Assists in coordination of research projects, including management of data access agreements, publication agreements, and other administrative aspects of the projects.
- Assists in proposal writing.

The position requires in-person work at UC Berkeley; it is eligible for up to 40% remote work.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree (or equivalent international degree) or enrolled in a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent international degree) program at time of application.
- Bachelor's degree (or equivalent international degree) required at time of start.

Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States at the time of hire. Visa sponsorship is not available for this position.

Preferred qualifications

- U.S. Census Special Sworn Status to access restricted-use data (or reasonably be able to obtain within 4 months of start date).
- Demonstrated knowledge of research function. Ability to perform research analysis duties.
- Demonstrated statistical analysis, systems programming, and database design skills to perform research analysis duties. Knowledge of Stata, or ability to learn Stata, strongly preferred.
- Ability to effectively manage time and see assigned parts of projects through to completion deadline.
- Skills to communicate complex information in a clear and concise manner both verbally and written.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, including strong writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in labor economics and higher education research.

Salary Range & Benefits

The UC academic salary scales set the minimum pay determined by rank and step at appointment. See the following table for the current salary scale(s) for this position: <https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/files/2025-26/represented-july-2025-scales/t24-b.pdf>. The current full time base salary for this position is \$55,000 - \$70,700. "Off-scale" salaries, which yield compensation that is higher than the published system-wide salary at the designated rank and step, are offered when necessary to meet competitive conditions.

The position is eligible for full UC benefits. For information on the comprehensive benefits package offered by the University visit:

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits/index.html>.

How to Apply

The official job posting is [here](#); the job ID is JPF05265. Apply through the link on that page. Application requires a CV or resume, a cover letter, a copy of your undergraduate degree transcript (unofficial is fine), and contact information for three references.

The first review date for this job is February 28, 2026.

About Berkeley

UC Berkeley is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our public mission of research, teaching, and service, consistent with [UC Regents Policy 4400](#) and University of California Academic Personnel policy ([APM 210 1-d](#)). These values are embedded in our [Principles of Community](#), which reflect our passion for critical inquiry, debate, discovery and innovation, and our deep commitment to contributing to a better world. Every member of the UC Berkeley community has a role in sustaining a safe, caring and humane environment in which these values can thrive.

The University of California, Berkeley is an Equal Opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or protected veteran status. For more information, please refer to the [University of California's Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment Policy](#) and the [University of California's Anti-Discrimination Policy](#).

In searches when letters of reference are required all letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including when letters are provided via a third party (i.e., dossier service or career center), to the [UC Berkeley statement of confidentiality](#) prior to submitting their letter.

As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.

Unless stated otherwise, unambiguously, in the position description, this position does not include sponsorship of a new consular H-1B visa petition that would require payment of the \$100,000 supplemental fee.

As a condition of employment, the finalist will be required to disclose if they are subject to any **final** administrative or judicial decisions within the last seven years determining that they committed any misconduct.

- "Misconduct" means any violation of the policies or laws governing conduct at the applicant's previous place of employment, including, but not limited to, violations of policies or laws prohibiting sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other forms of harassment or discrimination, as defined by the employer.
- [UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy](#)
- [UC Anti-Discrimination Policy](#)
- [APM - 035: Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment](#)