

**Job Description:** We are looking for a graduate student to join the research team of Professors Menaka Hampole, Francesca Truffa, and Ashley Wong as a Research Assistant. This role is for 10 hours per week in Fall 2025 and Winter 2026.

**Role and Responsibilities:**

- Data cleaning/merging/matching of large datasets comprising 1) Revelio CV data; 2) Scopus publication data; 3) firm data from Crunchbase; 4) data on US patent grants.
- Conducting empirical reduced-form analysis

**Qualifications:**

- i. Strong quantitative background (in empirical reduced-form methodologies)
- ii. Experience working with large datasets in Stata/R/python and database programming in Python (duckdb, polars, parquet)
- iii. Detail-oriented, self-motivated, with a strong work ethic and able to work independently to solve problems

**Project Description:**

While innovation and entrepreneurship has been widely recognized as a key driver of job creation and economic growth, large gender and racial disparities continue to persist. This lack of representation in the innovation process has been linked to a potential loss of innovations and products tailored to the needs and experiences of minorities and women (Koning et al., 2019; Einio et al., 2019; Koning et al., 2020, 2021). This paper studies the impact of student debt on the representation of women and racial minorities in entrepreneurship and innovation. We will build a novel comprehensive dataset that merges individual-level information on personal finances, demographic characteristics, entrepreneurship, innovation-related occupations, firm characteristics, scientific publications, and patents. We will combine online professional profiles with detailed career information of students with credit bureau records, scientific publication database, and patent records. To identify the causal impact of student debt on representation in entrepreneurship and innovation, we use a generalized difference-in-differences strategy which exploits the staggered implementation of a specific type of financial aid policy called a universal no-loan policy (UNLP), that was adopted by 22 universities in the U.S. between 2001 and 2021.