

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE: ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

There is an opening for a Research Associate to work directly with President Emeritus William G. Bowen at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York on empirical studies of ways to raise levels of educational attainment at the college level and to reduce disparities in outcomes related to socioeconomic status and race/ethnicity.

The Foundation has carried out a number of large-scale empirical studies of outcomes in higher education over the last ten years. Most recently, we have finished a large-scale study of completion rates at American public universities [William G. Bowen, Matthew M. Chingos, and Michael S. McPherson, *CROSSING THE FINISH LINE: COMPLETING COLLEGE AT AMERICA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES*, Princeton University Press, Sept. 2009]. Previous studies focused on race-sensitive admissions (Bowen and Bok, *The Shape of the River*), college sports and educational values (Shulman and Bowen, *The Game of Life* and Bowen and Levin, *Reclaiming the Game*) and the degree to which leading private and public colleges and universities are extending opportunity in higher education (Bowen, Kurzweil, and Tobin, *Equity and Excellence in American Higher Education*).

We now plan on responding to comments on *CROSSING THE FINISH LINE*, to carry out follow-on research, and to answer requests for access to the new databases we have built (as well as access to earlier databases, such as *College & Beyond*). In addition, we are now working hard on a potentially ambitious study of “undermatching” in Chicago Public Schools—where “undermatching” refers to situations in which well-qualified high school students, and especially those from poor families and African-American and Hispanic populations, attend either a less demanding four-year college than ones for which they are presumptively qualified, a two-year college, or no college at all.

At present, we have an exceedingly able research associate working with us in New York, and she will continue on our staff through the academic year. We need someone to succeed her as of next summer (starting in June 2010), and we are especially interested in identifying promising students who are now in their senior year of college.

Candidates for this position must have excellent undergraduate records with strong training in empirical social science. Previous experience suggests that such candidates are often individuals intending to pursue PhD degrees but who wish to take one or two years between undergraduate and graduate training to benefit from hands-on research on important subjects.

Summary of qualifications and skills desired:

- * BA in economics, sociology, government, or public policy;
- * Training in at least basic econometrics and microeconomic theory;
- * 1-2 years experience using statistical software packages such as Stata;
- * Familiarity with issues related to education, labor economics, and public policy;
- * Outstanding communications skills, both written and oral;
- * Demonstrated ability to work both independently and collaboratively;
- * Good interpersonal skills and ability to work in a small, close-knit environment.

Previous occupants of this position have gone on to graduate study in economics, government, the law, and public health. They have also become academics in leading universities. Some have become leaders in other non-profit enterprises of importance.

Compensation and benefits are competitive within the university and not-for-profit worlds. The Foundation is located on the Upper East Side of New York City, and working conditions are excellent.

Letters expressing interest in the position, and describing the individual's qualifications, should be sent to Johanna Brownell, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 151 E. 61st St., New York, NY 10065. It may be easiest for candidates to email their letters to Ms. Brownell at JB@Mellon.org.