

Student Internship Diversity Initiative

The Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), agencies of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), will be accepting applications for internships for economists in the summer of 2010. EBSA and BLS are working with the American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE) to offer two exceptional undergraduate or graduate students the opportunity to work for 8 to 10 weeks during the summer of 2010 at the DOL and become familiar with the work of economists related to employee benefits. The work in EBSA involves research and public policy related to employee benefits; the work in BLS is related to the development and dissemination of economic statistics on employee benefits. The DOL is working with ASHE on this initiative as part of its overall commitment to diversity and its interest in maintaining a broad and diverse pipeline of talent for the opportunities available at DOL.

One internship position exists in the Office of Policy and Research at EBSA, another in the Office of Compensation Levels and Trends at BLS. The selected interns will have the opportunity to work with experienced economists and researchers and also will have joint training opportunities, e.g. attending local seminars or conferences on issues relating to health insurance reform and retirement issues, and attending congressional hearings.

DOL and its Mission

The Department of Labor fosters and promotes the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States by improving their working conditions, advancing their opportunities for profitable employment, protecting their retirement and health care benefits, helping employers find workers, strengthening free collective bargaining, and tracking changes in employment, prices and other national economic measurements.

Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)

The paid summer internship position is located in the Division of Research and Economic Analysis in EBSA's Office of Policy and Research (OPR). OPR serves as the research and evaluation arm for EBSA which is responsible for overseeing private pension and health benefit plans that hold about \$5 trillion in assets. The economists in OPR serve as technical experts on economic issues relating to private employment-based health and pension benefit plans, the investment of assets held in these plans, and assist the Office Director in the application of economic theory and analysis to policy, legislative and regulatory issues.

EBSA Intern

The EBSA intern will be given the opportunity to apply economic and research principles and techniques relating to issues relevant to private health insurance and pension benefits. In addition, the intern will work with an experienced EBSA Ph.D. economist to identify a study topic and will have the opportunity to develop a research report on that topic of interest (e.g. analysis/literature reviews on retirement issues affecting minorities, health insurance reform, wellness initiatives, financial and investment reforms, annuities, and

international pension systems or other projects tailored to mutual interests). Finally, the intern will have the ability to experience other subject areas that EBSA economists and lawyers are involved with through assignments and group projects. Throughout the summer, there will be unique opportunities to attend Congressional hearings, policy and economic seminars, and conferences in Washington, DC (e.g. Retirement Research Consortium, Brookings Institution, AARP, or AEI) and to interact with economists and researchers at BLS as well as other agencies. This internship represents a wonderful opportunity for an intern to directly experience the development and implementation of retirement security policy and to gain broader perspective about the attractiveness of these positions as a viable career option.

Please call Miranda Moore at (202) 693-8332 if you have questions regarding working at EBSA.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

The paid summer internship program is located in the Division of Compensation Data Estimation in BLS's Office of Compensation Levels and Trends (OCLT). OCLT serves as the production and development office for BLS compensation statistics, including the Employment Cost Index, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation, occupational wage estimates by locality, and the incidence and provisions of employee benefits. The economists in OCLT are involved in several benefits-related activities, including:

- Analysis and coding of Summary Plan Descriptions for health and retirement plans.
- Environmental scanning and updating of internal research files on benefits topics; design of questions and tabulations for collection of expanded benefit topics.
- Review and validation of benefit estimates.

BLS Intern

The BLS intern will be given the opportunity to apply economic and research principles and techniques in the development of economic statistics on employee benefits. The work may include the review and analysis of health insurance and retirement benefit microdata as well as the review and preparation for publication of estimates covering all aspects of employee benefits. In addition, the intern will work with an experienced BLS economist to identify a study topic and will have the opportunity to develop a research report on that topic of interest (e.g. analysis/literature review of topics involving the details of employee benefit plans, such as medical savings accounts, prescription drug benefits, 401(k) plan investments, and defined benefit plan retirement ages). This research may result in a BLS publication. Throughout the summer, there will be unique opportunities to attend Congressional hearings, policy and economic seminars, and conferences in Washington, DC (e.g. Retirement Research Consortium, Brookings Institution, AARP, or AEI) and to interact with economists and researchers at EBSA as well as other agencies. This internship represents a wonderful opportunity for an intern to directly experience the development and implementation of retirement security policy and to gain broader perspective about the attractiveness of these positions as a viable career option.

Salary Guidelines

- 2 years of undergraduate education: GS-4 (\$14.59/hr)*
- 4 years of undergraduate education or bachelor's degree: GS-5 (\$16.33/hr)*
- 1 full year of graduate level education in appropriate field: GS-7 (\$20.22/hr)*
- 2 full years of graduate level education in appropriate field or graduate degree: GS-9 (24.74\$/hr)*
- 3 full years of graduate level education in appropriate field or PhD/equivalent doctoral degree: GS-11 (\$29.93/hr)*

(An intern's hourly rate may be higher depending on whether they have previously worked for the Federal government.)*

Benefits

- 4 hours of annual and 4 hours of sick leave per two-week pay period. *(Annual and sick leave is prorated based on the number of hours the intern works per week.)*
- Metrochek subsidy to defer commuting costs.

*(As temporary appointees, student interns are generally not **are not eligible to receive** retirement, life or health insurance benefits.)*

How to Apply

The internship application consists of the following:

1. A statement of interest (1 typed written page)
2. College transcript including most recent semester completed (Need not be official)
3. A Federal style resume or completed OF-612 form (http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/of612.pdf)
4. A completed OF-306 Declaration for Federal Employment form (http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/of0306.pdf)
5. Official recommendation

Applicants must be U.S. Citizens

For more information, please contact Jean Cheng (Personnel Specialist, Division of Human Resources and Organization Management, BLS) at (202) 691-5827 or Cheng.Jean@bls.gov.