

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Be a part of something BIG.

### JOB TITLE: Graduate Research Assistant JOB OPENING ID 362328

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

We are hiring a 25% (10 hours/week) graduate research assistant (GRA) position to start on August 26, 2024. The GRA will support a new National Institute on Aging-funded study seeking to examine associations between exposure to relative social structural advantages for people racialized as white on cognitive health outcomes and racial inequities among older adults in the US. This is an excellent opportunity for candidates interested in the intersectionality of structural discrimination as a determinant of health.

The GRA will extract population data from public databases, create variables, prepare and document analytical datasets, and support data analyses. The GRA may be asked to conduct additional literature reviews as needed. The GRA will be offered the opportunity to contribute to publications resulting from this study. The GRA will be supervised by Dr. Bert Chantarat and will also have professional development opportunities by collaborating with other members of the investigative team (University of Minnesota, the University of California, Davis, and the University of California, Los Angeles) and gaining exposure to research on aging, cardiovascular and cardiometabolic risk factors, and cognitive health.

This position is available for one academic year (Fall 2024, Spring 2025), with the potential for extension pending available funding and performance evaluation. We strongly encourage candidates from historically marginalized groups and those underrepresented in population health to apply. Starting pay is \$27.45/hour. This position will cover half of the GRA's tuition and health benefits for the year. Work hours will be flexible to allow for other commitments but must include hours within a core set of work hours to allow for team meetings. Office location: Selected candidates are welcome to work remotely or from our office in Willey Hall. Remote work can begin after training and with supervisor approval.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Extract population data from public databases (e.g., American Community Survey, Decennial Census, IPUMS NHGIS) and create variables for the analyses.
- Prepare and assess analytical datasets (e.g., perform data linkages, check in a secure data enclave, conduct descriptive analyses and visualizations of data distributions, and missingness and error assessment)
- Support the analyses, such as conducting descriptive analyses, preparing tables and figures, and formatting codes. The GRA with experience in longitudinal modeling may be tasked to lead the analyses under the supervision of Dr. Chantarat and other experts on the investigative team.
- Document their work meticulously (including constructing data dictionaries, procedures, and other metadata as appropriate) to ensure reproducibility and facilitate collaboration.
- Conduct supplementary literature review as needed.
- Attend regular meetings with the investigative team.
- If interested, contribute to research manuscripts, abstracts, presentations, and additional grant applications.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Required:

- Enrolled in a graduate program in public health (e.g., epidemiology, health services research, health policy), public policies, sociology, or similar social sciences field at the University of Minnesota.
- Experience acquiring, cleaning, and managing population data
- Proficient in R is a must. Experience with R Markdown/Quarto and understanding SAS codes are very helpful.
- Strong written, verbal, and interpersonal communication skills with audiences from various disciplines, communities, and cultures.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as a member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Experience communicating updates on time-sensitive tasks with teams/supervisors.
- Experience working on projects or in environments that require excellent organizational skills and attention to detail

### Preferred:

- Knowledge or strong interest in research on structural discrimination (e.g., structural racism, white supremacy, classism), intersectionality, racial health and/or aging inequities in the US
- Familiarity with the Health and Retirement Study is highly preferred
- Experience acquiring, cleaning, and managing population data
- Experience working in a secure data enclave (i.e., no internet access for data procedures)
- Experience with longitudinal data analyses (e.g., mixed models, generalized estimating equations, marginal structural models), factor analyses, and/or spatial and multilevel analyses are also pluses.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please apply using the University of Minnesota's online employment system [humanresources.umn.edu/jobs](https://humanresources.umn.edu/jobs) and search job opening ID 362328. Application requirements include a resume and a cover letter describing their interest and qualifications for the position. Questions about the position should be directed to Dr. Bert Chantarat, Senior Research Scientist, at [chanto83@umn.edu](mailto:chanto83@umn.edu). Questions concerning the application process may be addressed to Alex Lunde, HR & Operations Manager, at [isrdi-jobs@umn.edu](mailto:isrdi-jobs@umn.edu).