



Research Scientist in Impact Evaluations

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is a new organization at the University of Washington. Its mission is to monitor global health conditions and health systems, as well as to evaluate interventions, initiatives, and reforms. It also will build an audience of interested policymakers, researchers, donors, and other decision makers in health who are interested in learning more about how to apply, use, and derive better evidence in global health.

This Research Scientist position at the Institute will partner with faculty and other researchers on significant initiatives in the area of evaluations. The position will be supervised by a faculty member. The Research Scientist is expected to be a senior voice in the Evaluations Work Group, giving analytic guidance to other members and driving novel approaches to the tasks at hand. The Institute specifically carries out impact assessment evaluations, based upon empirical analysis and intended to measure the effect of a given initiative, program, reform, or policy on its target population. The individual will be expected to participate in training sessions for trainees of varying skill levels in order to build skill sets progressively. The individual will contribute as an author to written publications addressing research in evaluation methods and evaluation studies. He/she will directly interact with external researchers and decisionmakers from within health programs (i.e. funding initiatives, study teams, policy agencies) about evaluation design and implementation considerations. The individual will supervise post-bachelor fellows working in evaluations, acting in the role of mentor while building their skills base and challenging them to take on analytic tasks embedded within the Institute's activities.

Responsibilities Include:

- Participate as key member of the Evaluations Cluster, helping to focus and carry out research involving evaluation methods and evaluations studies through the appropriate Institute work groups. The Institute specifically carries out impact assessment evaluations and both develops and analyzes methods for such purposes. Participate in regular work groups to share ideas with colleagues, present progress on work, and discuss avenues for future objectives and deadlines.
- Carry out complex statistical analyses on large data sets of varying forms and collected from various instruments and sources. Construct models and implement comparative and cross-sectional analyses of data sets, taking into account a shifting set of variables and parameters to improve the robustness of results.
- Prepare and deliver technical presentations that articulate the technical aspects of the analyses conducted, the models designed and implemented, and the results obtained. Prepare materials that complement presentations as learning tools, including clear representations of results. Presentations must be tailored to fit the needs of varying audiences as needed, including

audiences of faculty, senior researchers in the field, policy analysts at ministries of health and statistics, beginning level researchers, and others. Individual would be likely to represent the Institute at various international conferences attended by high-level researchers and policymakers.

- Participate in the critical aspects of evaluation design and implementation on major research projects, including: indicator selection, training materials creation, establishment of baseline data, articulation of measurement objectives, identification of biases, targeting samples, design of sampling efforts for implementation, monitoring of results to make informed adjustments, analysis and interpretation of results.
- Participate in training sessions on analytic methods, evaluation design, and statistical model development for post-bachelor fellows. Some sessions will be embedded as part of the initial two-week training given to post-bachelor fellows upon their arrival. Other sessions will be packaged into a series of stand-alone workshops to take place over the course of the year and intended to emphasize progressive skill-building for researchers, and may also be attended by post-graduate fellows and others. Content will need to include conceptual instruction as well as actual case studies and applied learning exercises. Researcher will give individual and small group instruction as needed to post-bachelor fellows throughout the course of the year.
- Design and write training materials on analytic methods, evaluation design, and statistical model development for post-bachelor fellows and post-doctoral fellows.
- Supervise post-bachelor fellows concentrating their time on research related to evaluation methods and studies. Individual must act as mentor to trainees 1-2 years removed from their undergraduate degree who are part of an intensive quantitative skills-building fellowship. Must guide post-bachelor fellows in their analytic tasks and ensure that those assigned tasks are embedded within ongoing Institute activities. Will require regular meetings with post-bachelor fellows to critique their work, give constructive feedback, consider their training needs and research interests, and set objectives and deadlines for ongoing work as members of a larger team of researchers in each Work Group or project, respectively. Will work closely with the Director of Education and Training, who will coordinate the overall cohort of post-bachelor fellows and give direction on supervision, overall training needs, and ensure smooth communications across the different areas of work. The Research Scientist will be trained in and evaluated in part on their supervisory performance.
- Write up research results, methods, and potential new directions for publication in refereed journals, Institute-wide publications, and conference papers. Individual is expected to attend select conferences and deliver presentations of research results and methods development. Individual is also expected to write papers and reports on each of the main analytic areas being investigated.
- Apply results in ways suitable for public policy analysis and crafted appropriately to guide policymakers in decision making about how best to allocate limited resources. Assess the impact of policies, global initiatives, and reforms upon targeted populations.
- Travel to liaise with external collaborators as needed to: give instruction to collaborators on implementing evaluations and analytic methods; participate in, monitor, and advise on evaluation implementation; build strong collaborative links with site researchers and practitioners to share data, results, and jointly write publications.
- Individual is expected to participate in Institute communal activities such as seminars, journal club, etc.

Requirements:

PhD in public policy, public health, or other related field plus at least 3 years of related experience required.

Research experience involving quantitative evaluation design and/or implementation. Must have experience using either STATA, R, or related statistical packages for analysis. Must have strong familiarity with household survey instruments and the analysis of population-level data. Outstanding academic record, excellent writing, research, analysis, communication, and organizational skills required. Demonstrated expertise in writing technical papers and explaining complex technical materials in a clear and concise manner to multiple audiences required. Demonstrated ability to cultivate productive and seamless working relationships with diverse audiences is imperative. Must be able to provide senior research guidance constructively and insightfully, while considering sources of data, practicality of collection, analytic requirements, and relevance of results. Demonstrated experience working on quantitative research linked directly to public policy analysis required.

Further Information:

See IHME's website: www.healthmetricsandevaluation.org

To Apply:

Please apply through the UW Hires Website:

<https://uwhires.admin.washington.edu/eng/candidates/default.cfm?szLocationID=88> and enter Req 53426