



2020-21 Postdoctoral Fellowships
Call for Applications/Renewal – Due March 31, 2020

Retirement and Disability Social Policy in Residence Postdoctoral Fellows

The University of Wisconsin-Madison [Center for Financial Security's](#) (CFS) *Retirement and Disability Social Policy in Residence* Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is an interdisciplinary program providing mentored postdoctoral fellowships in the field of retirement and disability research. Funded by the Social Security Administration through CFS' [Retirement and Disability Research Consortium](#) (RDRC), it provides renewable one-year postdoctoral fellowships for recent PhD recipients. Fellows will conduct research on topics related to Social Security, retirement, and disability policy, especially focused on economically vulnerable populations. The fellowship will provide both funding and mentoring for emerging scholars with an interest in applied research. The goal is to produce high quality research products, as well as to develop young scholars who can become future leaders in the retirement and disability research fields.

Postdoctoral fellows will work in collaboration with CFS faculty and will have access to a mentorship team from CFS and other UW centers, including the Center for Demography and Ecology, Institute for Research on Poverty, and Center for Demography of Health and Aging. UW-Madison offers an outstanding training environment for postdoctoral scholars and a strong track-record of achievement. UW-Madison is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applicants should submit a proposal for a research project, which falls within one or more of the four themes below, and results in a working paper for SSA, as well as a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer review journal:

1. Interactions between public assistance and social insurance programs over the life course
2. The role of health and health insurance for the financial security of financially vulnerable households
3. How economically vulnerable households combine work, pensions, and social insurance programs to secure consumption over lifetimes
4. Low-net-wealth households and retirement well-being, including the role of housing wealth, non-retirement savings, and debt.

All proposals should include specific research questions and the proposed data to answer these questions. The potential findings should be policy relevant for policymakers, as well as contribute to the retirement and disability research literature. A discussion of how this work is an extension of current/existing research and/or how the work creates opportunities for future projects should also be included. Applicants should describe their interest and experience in retirement and disability; their experiences working with data in applied research; and propose and discuss the research question(s) they will study as part of this project.

Eligibility

An ideal candidate will have strong quantitative and writing skills, advanced knowledge of demographic and econometric methods with large survey and/or administrative data, and training or interest in issues relating to retirement and disability. Suitable backgrounds would be Economics, Policy, Demography, Public Health, Sociology and other related fields.

Award

In 2020-21, the stipend for this full-time appointment will be approximately \$68,000, depending on qualifications and experience. Fellows will be furnished with an office space and technology support, as well as access to campus facilities, and CFS researchers and events. Fellows are also eligible for [health insurance and other benefits](#).

Application Materials and Submission

Renewing applicants will need to submit a research prospectus (no more than three pages in length) that includes a summary of your overall proposal, significance of your research, a discussion of the central research themes, and a data and methods section that includes your data source and techniques you will use in your analysis. The renewal form, where you will upload your research proposal, is online at: <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/training>.

New applicants should describe their interest in this project, their experiences working with data in applied research and propose and discuss the research question(s) they would like to study as part of this project. Applicants will need to submit the following:

- ✓ Cover Letter (1 page) describing your research interests and how you see this fellowship supporting your development as a scholar of retirement and disability research
- ✓ CV
- ✓ Letter of Recommendation from an advisor
- ✓ Working paper or published paper on which you are primary author
- ✓ 3-page research prospectus that will be the focus of their work, and includes
 - Proposed Project Title
 - Abstract (200 words)
 - Brief background on the proposed topics (250 words)
 - Research questions to be explored and how they connect to the CFS RDRC themes
 - Proposed data sources that could be used to answer these questions
 - How this work fits into the scholar's development (250 words max.)
 - The proposed research papers and other related work that could emerge from project
 - The significance of your research for the field and policy makers
 - The scholar's goals and mentoring support needs during the fellowship

Application Materials and Submission

The application form is online at <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/training>. The online application form includes the following background information:

- ✓ Name, mailing address, phone and email address
- ✓ Current Institution
- ✓ Department or Field
- ✓ Doctoral status: date of doctorate degree
- ✓ Dissertation chair or main advisor
- ✓ Personal website
- ✓ Earliest available start date (August 1, 2020 or later)
- ✓ Proposed Fellowship appointment level (50-100%) and length (9 – 18 months)



For full consideration, submit your application by March 31, 2020. All applications will be reviewed by a panel of scholars from CFS, SSA or RDRC programs. Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria and weights:

- Research prospectus (40%)
- Research capability (20%)
- Writing and communication capability (20%)
- Recommendation letter (20%)

All projects will also be subject to review by program officials before Fellows are named. For more information, contact Professor J. Michael Collins (jmcollins@wisc.edu), Faculty Director of the Center for Financial Security.