



2022-23 Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) Cohort

Call for Applications - Due Thursday, February 3, 2022

JSIT Summer Workshop: June 13 – 17, 2022 (in-person)
JSIT Fall Workshop: August 29 – 30, 2022 (tentative and virtual)

JSIT Overview

Howard University's [Center on Race and Wealth \(CRW\)](#) and the [Center for Financial Security \(CFS\)](#) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison seek applications for the 2021-22 Junior Scholar Intensive Training (JSIT) Cohort. The JSIT program centers around the Summer Workshop, a week-long intensive held in June. Please note that we are planning to return to an in-person event held at UW-Madison for June 2022, but this is subject to change.

JSIT brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines, including junior faculty (non-tenured), newly graduated PhD researchers, and dissertators, who are interested in topics related to social insurance and intersections with disability and retirement research. The goal of JSIT is to provide emerging scholars with training and mentoring to develop research ideas and to write an initial research proposal of relevance to the Social Security Administration, their programs, policies, and/or beneficiaries. JSIT scholars present their initial research idea at the Summer Workshop; receive peer and mentor feedback; continue to refine it over the summer; and present an updated project idea at the Fall Workshop. These proposals can then be entered into the JSIT Research Competition, which awards five scholars \$5,000 to complete their JSIT research.

All training, mentoring, career coaching, course materials, travel, lodging, meals and incidentals (if applicable) are fully covered.

Summer Workshop – Research Intensive

The Summer Workshop is an interactive training that includes group and individual work, as well as seminar style presentations. Scholars will have individual time with CFS faculty mentors, as well as a JSIT mentor. Each JSIT scholar is paired with a mentor who will support and guide the development of the scholar's research proposal.

The Summer Workshop is an intensive research week covering the following topics:

- Understanding the social insurance research landscape
- Formulating and refining research questions and hypotheses related to SSA programs, beneficiaries, and their intersecting retirement or disability issues
- Identifying data sources and working with public data sets
- Strategies for working with and without administrative data
- Understanding the proposal development process
- Communicating and translating research
- Getting the most out of a mentor relationship

This interdisciplinary training is led by CFS Faculty, a group of exceptional mentors, and experts in datasets that are relevant to the retirement and disability research community.

Personalized Data Mentoring



Scholars can also opt to receive personalized data skills training over the summer (free and optional). The summer data skills training is virtual and asynchronous, using DataCamp. Data training covers a variety of skills and programs (Tidyverse, Stata, Tableau, R and RMarkdown), and is personalized to scholars' individual needs.

Confidential Career Coaching

Beyond the summer workshop, scholars are offered confidential career coaching, at their convenience (free and optional).

JSIT Mentors

Mentoring is a key component to the JSIT program. While most concentrated during the summer months, mentoring is provided year round. Each scholar is paired with their main JSIT mentor who guides the scholar through their proposal development process, which is bookended by scholar presentations at the summer and fall workshops. Prior JSIT mentors have been:

- [Fenaba Addo](#), Public Policy, UNC-Chapel Hill
- [Marah Curtis](#), School of Social Work, UW-Madison
- [Manasi Deshpande](#), Economics, University of Chicago
- [Itzik Fadlon](#), Economics, UC San Diego
- [Bradley Hardy](#), Public Policy, Georgetown University
- [Damon Jones](#), Public Policy, Public Finance, Economics, University of Chicago
- [Timothy Moore](#), Economics, Purdue University
- [Rourke O'Brien](#), Sociology, Yale University
- [Carly Urban](#), Economics, Montana State University

Further, during both the summer and fall workshops, JSIT scholars receive continuous feedback from CFS faculty mentors:

- [J. Michael Collins](#), Consumer & Personal Finance, UW-Madison
- [Mary Hamman](#), Economics, UW-La Crosse
- [Justin Sydnor](#), Risk Management & Insurance, UW-Madison

Eligibility

An ideal candidate will have strong analytic and communication skills; advanced knowledge of quantitative methods and/or experience with large survey and/or administrative data; interest in issues relating to the social safety net, social insurance, and/or retirement and disability; and commitment to economic and social equity. We are looking for a diversity of scholars, disciplines, institutions and methods. Both quantitative and qualitative research is of interest, though scholars should have appropriate methodological training to conduct an independent research project, and detail their analytic training in the application. Suitable backgrounds include Economics, Policy/Policy Analysis, Demography, Public Health, Sociology and other related fields.

Applicants should be non-tenured junior faculty, postdoctoral researchers, or those in dissertator status. International scholars may apply. Note that successful applicants will need to complete a W9 form and have a Social Security number in order to be reimbursed for costs.

JSIT Application

Submit your application online [here](#). **For priority consideration, submit your application by 11:59pm PST on February 3, 2022.** Applications will be reviewed and scored by staff from CRW and CFS. Successful applicants will be notified in March 2022 and will have two weeks to accept their spot in



the JSIT 2022 cohort, as space is limited. There will be minimal logistics and prep work in April and May 2022, along with some pre-reading to complete prior to the summer workshop.

Please note that **applicants may apply to more than one CFS funding opportunity**. Applicants should complete an application for each opportunity that is of interest. All opportunities are listed on our RDRC training page: <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/training>.

Application Scoring

Applications are scored by CRW and CFS, and reviewed by SSA program staff. Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria and weights:

- Research prospectus and capability (50%)
- Equity, diversity and inclusion statement (20%)
- Writing and communication capability (15%)
- Recommendation letter (15%)

All JSIT projects will also be subject to review and approval by SSA program officials.

JSIT Timeline

Application Deadline	February 3, 2022
Notification	March 2022
Mentor Matching and Logistics	April 2022
Pre-readings	June 2022
Summer Workshop	June 13-17, 2022
Fall Workshop	August 29-30, 2022 (tentative)

More about JSIT

To learn more about the JSIT program, please visit our event page, [here](#) where you'll find scholar alums testimonial videos, previous workshop agendas, and articles on prior cohorts. JSIT is supported by the Social Security Administration's [Retirement and Disability Research Consortium \(RDRC\)](#). Visit CFS' [RDRC Research](#) page for the variety of research topics funded over the years. To see all available opportunities, please visit the [RDRC Training](#) page. **You may apply to more than one CFS funding opportunity**. Applicants should complete an application for each opportunity that is of interest.



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