

# **Employment Opportunity: Economics Research Assistant (Student Contractor)**

## **U.S. Geological Survey, Science and Decisions Center**

### **Job Description Summary**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Science and Decisions Center seeks a highly motivated Economics Research Assistant (Student Contractor) to support applied environmental and natural resource economics research within an interdisciplinary science team. Current projects examine the economic impacts of harmful algal blooms on recreation demand, groundwater contamination risk under alternative water supply scenarios, and watershed-scale environmental hazards. The selected candidate will work directly with USGS economists and interdisciplinary scientists to build integrated environmental–economic datasets, conduct applied econometric and scenario-based analyses, and contribute to research products that inform real-world management decisions.

### **Responsibilities**

- Conducting structured literature reviews and synthesizing findings.
- Identifying, acquiring, and organizing datasets from federal and scientific sources.
- Cleaning and harmonizing large panel datasets (economic, environmental, geospatial).
- Assisting with descriptive and econometric analysis using R or Python.
- Supporting scenario modeling and economic tradeoff analysis.
- Preparing figures, tables, and technical appendices for manuscripts and USGS publications.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Applicants must meet one of the following educational conditions:
- Received a bachelor's or master's degree in economics, or related field within the past 12 months; or
- Are currently enrolled in a master's or PhD program in economics or a related field

### **Desired Qualifications**

- Coursework in microeconomics and basic econometrics.
- Demonstrated ability to manage, clean, and analyze structured datasets.
- Experience using R and/or Python for data analysis.
- Familiarity with environmental economics concepts.
- Experience working with panel, environmental, or geospatial datasets is a plus.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and ability to create clear data visualizations.
- Strong written communication skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks.

### **Position Details**

This position will be hired as a Student Services Contractor. Student contractors work directly with USGS scientists on applied research projects and receive mentorship and hands-on experience. More information at:

<https://www.usgs.gov/youth-and-education-in-science/student-services-contractors>

- Full-time or part-time depending on availability
- Anticipated start: June 1, 2026
- One year of funding available (potential extension based on funding)
- Fully remote or based in Columbus, OH or Reston, VA
- Pay determined by duty station and education level

### **How to Apply**

Submit the following materials:

1. CV or Resume (include month and year of degree completion)
2. Cover Letter describing experience, qualifications, and interest in the position
3. Writing Sample
4. Unofficial Transcripts

Email materials to Tony Good ([agood@usgs.gov](mailto:agood@usgs.gov)) with “Economics Research Assistant Application” in the subject line. Submit Applications by **11:59 PM on March 31, 2026** to receive full consideration.

**Science and Decisions Center:** <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/science-and-decisions-center>