Growth Lab Policy Research Fellowships

The Growth Lab is a research program housed at the Harvard Kennedy School. Our dynamic, cross-disciplinary group of researchers study economic growth and structural change to better understand the obstacles to economic development and the most effective policy responses. As part of its mission, the Growth Lab applies its research capabilities to real-world policy engagements informing policymakers' initiatives to overcome their most pressing economic challenges.

Position Summary

The Growth Lab Policy Research Fellowship is an exciting and challenging role that offers a unique opportunity to work on the frontier of economic research and apply findings to address real-world development problems. Under the guidance of Professor Ricardo Hausmann, affiliated professors and senior researchers, Research Fellows contribute to the Lab's core research agenda while collaborating with government leaders and development practitioners to inform policymaking through research-based insights.

The Growth Lab strives to provide a supportive and stimulating environment where Research Fellows can hone their analytical and policy skills through hands-on experience and mentoring from faculty and senior researchers.

We are looking for candidates with a strong background in one or several areas of economics (economic growth, international trade, macroeconomics, labor markets, innovation, green growth, applied econometrics and/or data science), as well as a deep interest in applied research, working in developing countries, and interacting with a multitude of collaborators in varying contexts and a fast-paced environment. This position is in-person based in Cambridge, MA. Fellowships are typically for one-year with the possibility of renewal.

Policy Research Responsibilities

- Creatively contribute to the Growth Lab's research agenda by identifying policy-relevant research questions, sourcing new datasets, proposing novel quantitative methods analyses and visualizations.
- Lead the technical execution of research from analytical design to data collection, cleaning, data analysis, visualization, and interpretation of findings.
- Translate findings into policy by developing evidence-based recommendations and outputs that can inform policy decisions.
- Engage and collaborate closely with on-the-ground stakeholders in project locations, including travel to project sites as needed.
- Write research publications, including project reports, policy memos, presentations, and academic publications.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with colleagues and counterparts across the different Growth Lab's research areas of interest.

Organizational Responsibilities

- Support the recruitment and mentoring of research assistants and student interns
- Organize research presentations from conferences to Kennedy School seminars, in the field or in other settings.
- Build upon existing programs such as the "Growth Lab DevTalks" by identifying and inviting potential speakers.
- Contribute to knowledge management, diffusion, and outreach.
- Identify and expand internships and learning opportunities for students at Harvard, with particular focus on the

Kennedy School.

Minimum Qualifications

- Master's degree in economics, public policy, international development, statistics, business administration, or a related field (expected graduation in Spring 2027 or already graduated).
- Proficiency in statistical software (Stata, R, and/or Python).
- Excellent judgment in problem solving and decision-making.
- Strong ability to initiate, foster and maintain relationships with faculty, public- and private-sector leaders, students and other stakeholders that could contribute to the mission of the Lab.
- Flexibility, self-motivation, and the ability to manage multiple tasks efficiently, both independently and as a team member.
- Fluency in English with excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to present research and recommendations to senior officials and researchers, and to produce high-quality policy reports, memos, academic publications, or others.
- Minimum 3 years of directly related experience.

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with the Growth Lab's work on economic growth, growth diagnostics, Economic Complexity and/or green growth.
- Experience working with public officials and civil servants (e.g., through work in government, multilateral development banks, or a consulting/advisory environments).
- Prior experience conducting research on or living in developing countries.
- Flexibility to travel.
- Spanish, French, or Arabic language proficiency a plus.

Learn More

To get a sense for the types of projects Growth Lab Research Fellows work on, we invite you to visit: Research - Growth Lab

To get a sense of what the role entails beyond contributing to applied research projects, we invite you to watch: Joining the Growth Lab: A Behind the Scenes Look.

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until December 31, 2026. To apply, please submit your CV, a cover letter, transcripts for all degrees (undergraduate and graduate), and a brief (1-2 pages) writing sample on a policy issue (preferably a short-form document e.g. a policy memo). **No submissions will be considered without all the required documents.**

Selected candidates will participate in at least three rounds of interviews. We expect the first round to take place in January/February 2027, and job offers to be extended by March/April 2027

The Growth Lab is committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse work environment. We encourage applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences.