



SOCIAL IMPACT INITIATIVE WISE Program

Wharton Social Impact Initiative
The Wharton School
University of Pennsylvania

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Wharton Social Impact Initiative, Urban Analytics WISE Fellowship

Commitment: 1 academic year—fall and spring semesters; 4-6 hours per week. Fall dates: September 21 – December 10, 2020. **Spring dates:** January 19 – April 28, 2021 (dates subject to change).

In accordance with the University’s decision surrounding remote work, all bi-weekly check-ins with staff and faculty will be virtual and will take place during regular EST business hours. We will continue to monitor University guidelines for the spring, and staff will announce before Winter Break any changes to the remote model.

Keywords: Analytics, Big data, Philadelphia, Public Policy, Research, Social Impact, Statistics, Translational Research, Urban Innovation

Background

Since fall 2017, the Wharton Social Impact Initiative (WSII) has [supported](#) Professor Shane Jensen’s “Urban Analytics” research. Professor Jensen and his team use high resolution urban data to investigate the relationship between neighborhood safety and aspects of the built environment in Philadelphia, such as block parties, vacant lot greening, land use zoning and permits, and school locations. Currently, Professor Jensen’s findings have been disseminated within the academic statistics and urban planning communities via scholarly publications and conference presentations, but his work has been less accessible to the policy maker audience and public at large.

We believe that a wider audience, from policy makers to urban practitioners, would be interested in this burgeoning field of urban analytics and that this type of foundational research can contribute a unique data-driven perspective to the discussion of urban issues. To bridge this readership gap, Professor Jensen and WSII will co-create a 20-25 page white paper written for general dissemination. Our goal with this publication is to make “Urban Analytics” research accessible by communicating our findings in an understandable and intuitive way that is interesting and relevant to a wide variety of audiences in Philadelphia as well as in cities across the world.

Role

This project is unique compared to past WISE projects in that the Fellow selected for this role will work closely with Professor Jensen and WSII to assist in the writing of a white paper that distills Urban Analytics’ academic research for broad readership.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Refine existing academic research and manuscripts written by Professor Jensen and his team so that it is compelling and understandable to a broad readership that may not have a strong academic background in statistical thinking or quantitative methods.
- Perform and synthesize secondary research on Smart Cities, big data, urban studies, and related issues.
- Summarize dense figures, tables, and graphs, and provide guidance on creating simplified data visualizations.
- Work closely with Professor Jensen to confirm the accuracy of technical information.



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- Work closely with WSII to ensure desired clarity, tone, and flow.
- Support the copy editing of all versions of the white paper to ensure consistent grammar, punctuation, and style.

Qualifications

We are seeking a candidate that meets most/all of the following attributes and skills:

- Current Penn student with demonstrated experience writing and editing essays, longform articles, and other written material for a general audience.
- English language proficiency with exceptional writing and grammar skills.
- Motivation to take initiative and maintain consistent virtual communication with faculty and staff.
- Experience with technical and/or academic research.
- Strong attention to detail and time management skills.
- Ability to deliver high-quality work products on a tight deadline.
- General knowledge of statistical thinking and quantitative methods preferred.
- Knowledge or experience in urban studies and/or urban policy preferred.
- Must be proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and Google Drive/Office Suite.

Compensation

- \$1,000 per semester, upon successful completion of the above tasks, will be issued in the form of an award.

To apply: Submit your cover letter and resume with the subject line "Urban Analytics WISE Fellowship" to hireWSII@wharton.upenn.edu by **no later than 11:59PM September 9, 2020**. We will review applications on a rolling basis and only candidates invited to submit a writing sample will be notified. Late applications nor supplemental materials will not be accepted.

About Wharton Social Impact Initiative

[Wharton Social Impact Initiative](#) (WSII) is Wharton's cross-disciplinary center for research, training, and outreach to strengthen business-based solutions to social and environmental challenges. Our mission is to build the evidence, talent, and community to advance business solutions for a better world.