2020-2021 Research Assistant Positions

About the Kleinman Center

Established in July 2014 with a generous gift to University of Pennsylvania’s School of Design from Scott (C’94, W’94) and Wendy Kleinman, the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy creates the conditions for policy innovation that support a just and efficient transition to sustainable energy. Our vision is an energy system that optimizes productivity through smart demand, sustainable supply, and compensated externalities.

The Kleinman Center focuses on projects that:

- **Foster thoughtful and impactful energy-related research.** We support Penn research through a variety of programs and bring distinguished energy leaders and scholars to Penn for visits and residencies.
- **Develop the next generation of energy leaders.** We engage student learners by providing energy-related courses, a certificate program, lectures, internships, and grants for research and professional development.
- **Create conditions for energy policy stakeholders to explore options and develop agendas.** We convene thought leaders with diverse interests in settings that foster productive conversations and action.

We explore critical issues and address challenges that have regional, national, and global implications. Our growing body of academic research is informed by regular conversations with scholars, industry leaders, and policy makers—who help shed light on today's most urgent research questions.

Applying for a Research Position

The Kleinman Center is seeking to expand its research team with five undergraduate or graduate research assistants for the 2020-2021 academic year. These are paid positions for enrolled Penn students that will begin in September 2020.

Student research assistants will work remotely, but must commit to a regular, weekly virtual meeting and an average of 10 hours per week (maximum of 20) to the duties outlined below.

Interested candidates must apply by email to kimberle@upenn.edu. Please indicate the position you are applying for in bold in the body of an email. Additionally, please include:

- Cover letter that highlights interests, relevant experience, and how this position will further your academic and professional goals
- Resume
- Writing sample (single author; not co-authored)

Applications will be accepted through **September 15, 2020.**
Each candidate may apply for a **maximum of two positions.** Each position **requires a separate cover letter.** Please indicate in the body of your email application if you are applying to multiple positions and include your preference for consideration.

These part-time positions are intended to last the full 2020-2021 academic year. However, there will be a mid-year review for all positions to discuss progress, expectations, and continuation of the appointment.

**Research Assistant for U.S. Policy Projects**

**Description**
Reporting directly to the Center's Research Director Angela Pachon, this research assistant will support research projects focused on domestic energy and climate policies that address national, state, and local issues. The research assistant will also provide support for research projects that the Center may undertake to inform the implementation of carbon reduction strategies at Penn. These projects will result in the publication of at least three **policy digests** or **reports.** Specific tasks include assisting in selecting the topics, collecting data, reviewing bibliographies, analyzing data, and drafting digests or papers.

**Qualifications**
Candidates should have a strong interest and robust understanding of energy or climate policy. Familiarity with the role of federal sectoral agencies like FERC, EPA, DOE, and EIA as well as the organization of electricity markets in the U.S. is desirable. The ideal candidate will be detail-oriented with exceptional writing skills and have experience with policy or economic/statistical analysis. Must be proactive and able to work independently. Prior relevant work experience is appreciated, but not required.

**Research Assistant for International Projects**

**Description**
Reporting directly to the Center's Research Director Angela Pachon, this student will support research projects focused on global and international energy and climate mitigation policy issues. Examples of areas of study are:

- International policies for the green transition of the transportation sector
- Carbon market developments
- Green transition of the global financial sector
- Transformation of big oil companies
- Decarbonization of fossil fuel producing countries
- Access to and funding of clean energy in developing countries
- Promotion and implementation of energy efficiency technologies
- The international supply of negative emissions
The research assistant will also support the drafting of at least three policy digests or reports. Specific tasks include assisting in selecting the topics, collecting data, reviewing bibliography, analyzing data, and drafting of the digests or papers.

**Qualifications**
Candidates should have a strong interest and robust understanding of global energy and climate mitigation policies and have some familiarity with reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the International Energy Agency. Knowledge of energy and climate issues of a specific region of the world is also desirable. The ideal candidate will be detail-oriented with exceptional writing skills and have experience with policy or economic/statistical analysis. Must be proactive and able to work independently. Preference will be given to international students fluent in a second language.

**Research Assistant for News and Legislative Proceedings**

**Description**
Reporting directly to the Center's Research Director Angela Pachon, this student will review news outlets, and regulatory and legislative proceedings at the state and federal level to produce a weekly compilation of ongoing news related to the energy regulatory agenda. This compilation will inform researchers at the Center and will be used as input for blogs, research projects, and social media.

**Qualifications**
Candidates should have a strong interest in energy policy and a robust understanding of energy regulatory proceedings and legislative processes. Candidates should be familiar with energy and climate news outlets like E&E News (see [https://kleinmanenergy.upenn.edu/e-resources](https://kleinmanenergy.upenn.edu/e-resources)), Utility Dive, and Greentech Media. The ideal candidate should be comfortable searching, reading, and summarizing legislative and regulatory documents. Excellent writing skills are required.

**Research Assistant for Global Food System Project**

**Description**
This student candidate will be an integral member of a new research initiative: “Climate and Energy Impacts of the Global Food System.” This project seeks to better understand the energy and climate implications of the global food system including agriculture, food processing, and food transportation. It is broad in scope, with publications around four food-energy-climate relationships.

- Direct Emissions from Land Use
- Operational Energy Demand
- Dependence on Petrochemicals
- Biofuel Production

This research assistant will help to further refine and expand this research framework and will assist the Kleinman Center’s Research Associate Oscar Serpell to write and edit at least two policy digests designed to introduce this research effort. The student will also independently write at least two blog posts on topics related to this area of research to be published on the Kleinman Center website.
Qualifications
Candidates should have a strong interest and robust understanding of climate change, its causes, and its possible impacts, as well as some knowledge of either domestic or international food systems, goods transportation, or agriculture. Candidates should also have excellent writing, communications, and analytical skills. Candidates should be familiar with energy and climate news outlets like E&E News (see https://kleinmanenergy.upenn.edu/e-resources), Utility Dive, and Greentech Media.

Podcast Editorial Assistant

Description
Reporting directly to producer and host Andy Stone, this student editorial assistant to help coordinate, plan, and research timely topics for the production of Energy Policy Now, a bi-weekly podcast series on energy policy topics.

Energy Policy Now is hosted by energy journalist Andy Stone, who records conversations with industry, government, and academic leaders—shedding light on today's pressing energy policy debates. Most episodes are a half-hour long.

Until recently, our podcasts have been recorded in a studio on campus. During the pandemic, all recording and editing work is virtual.

Key responsibilities for this position include: meeting (virtually) weekly to discuss upcoming projects, pitching and discussing content ideas, helping maintain editorial calendar, assisting with planning and scheduling guests, researching key facts, helping draft questions and script, and tracking and updating audience metrics. Those with editing experience may also participate in the final editing process.

At the end of a semester, the editorial assistant will have helped produce at least six podcast episodes—with the opportunity to possibly continue work into the next semester.

Qualifications
Candidates should have a background or demonstrated interest in energy and environmental policy and editorial experience. They should be motivated and persistent researchers with strong writing and editing skills and the ability to clearly articulate complex, esoteric topics. The strongest candidates will have experience writing for a general audience. Podcasting and/or sound editing experience is a plus.

Additional Application Materials
As outlined on the first page, candidates for this position should submit a cover letter, resume, and writing sample. The writing sample for this position should demonstrate the candidate’s ability to write for a general audience. Consider including an additional sample of your work that includes audio or video production work (optional).