

The Role: Research Director**About the Unit**

The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab are faculty-driven research centers that try to improve social conditions in American cities by partnering closely with local, state and federal government agencies to carry out the highest-quality scientific studies. The labs are led by Jens Ludwig and Harold Pollack of the University of Chicago, Jonathan Guryan of Northwestern University and Pat Sharkey of New York University, and carry out research projects in collaboration with a national network of leading experts in fields such as economics, public policy, sociology, behavioral science, and computer science. Examples of some of our past projects include: several randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of behavioral science interventions to reduce crime and dropout in Chicago (Heller, Shah, Guryan, Ludwig, Mullainathan and Pollack, 2017, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*), the results of which were cited by the *Washington Post* as one inspiration for President Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative; a RCT of a large-scale summer jobs programs for disadvantaged youth in Chicago (Heller, 2015, *Science*), which has helped inform Mayor Rahm Emanuel's anti-violence initiatives; and a study that highlights the potential for improving the criminal justice system using machine learning methods, but also the new social science-type challenges that arise in exporting those tools to policy applications (Kleinberg, Lakkaraju, Leskovec, Ludwig and Mullainathan, 2018, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*), which has led to a partnership with New York City government to build a new citywide system to help judges make bail decisions.

We have a full-time staff of nearly 70 in offices located in downtown Chicago (across from city hall) and New York City (also across from city hall), which includes PhD-level research directors, data scientists, and program managers. We are funded by research grants from foundations such as the Arnold, Joyce, MacArthur, McCormick, and Pritzker foundations, federal government agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, US Department of Education and US Department of Justice, and private individuals, as well as ongoing core operating support from the University of Chicago. Previous Crime and Education lab projects have been featured in national news outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, PBS News Hour, and National Public Radio.

The Crime and Education Lab is part of the University of Chicago's Urban Labs, a set of highly synergistic labs focused on undertaking inquiry and having impact on five areas of urban life: crime, education, health, poverty, and energy & environment (<https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/>). We also are able to capitalize on the unique intellectual environment of the University of Chicago itself, which has been one of the world's leading research universities since its founding in 1890 by John D. Rockefeller with over 90 former students and faculty having been recipients of the Nobel Prize.

Unit Job Summary

The University of Chicago Crime and Education Lab is seeking a full-time Research Director to contribute scientific and intellectual leadership to the organization and our work. The primary role of the Research Director is to direct a portfolio of applied research projects in association with faculty members and research teams focused on reducing crime and violence and improving

educational performance and attainment and other life outcomes for disadvantaged youth in addition to facilitating technical assistance work for government partners and strategic partners. In this role, the Research Director will provide scientific direction on all projects, ensure the rigor and quality of all work, manage and mentor research and project staff, and help to set and contribute to organizational priorities as part of the management team. The Research Director will report to the Executive Director and work collaboratively with senior faculty members at the University of Chicago and elsewhere, other research directors, and with partner agencies. The Research Director will contribute to the scientific content of research proposals, and will assist the ED and other faculty affiliates in supporting fundraising, dissemination and policymaker outreach activities. The Research Director will also contribute to strategic conversations about which new projects and initiatives the Crime and Education Lab should take on as well as management of staff and leadership on organizational initiatives.

This position is based in Chicago, IL.

Education

Applicants must have a Ph.D. in public policy, economics, criminology, education, statistics, computer science, or other relevant field with substantial policy and research experience or defended your dissertation by Fall 2019.

Experience

The successful candidate will have expertise in all aspects of the research design, methods, and evaluation of research projects in the area of criminal justice or education policy or related area of social policy and an interest in finding and testing innovative solutions to urban problems. Preference will be given to those who understand and use methods of causal inference and who have proven experience working with interdisciplinary research teams and agency and community stakeholders.

Competencies

- Strategic leadership skills required.
- Supervisory skills required.
- Advanced knowledge in relevant scientific field required.
- Advanced knowledge of research techniques or methods required.
- Knowledge of scientific applications required.
- Knowledge of regulatory policies and procedures required.
- Analytical skills required.
- Problem-solving skills required.
- Attention to detail required.
- Organizational skills required.
- Verbal and written communication skills required.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team required.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office required.
- Knowledge of content areas – Crime and Education – strongly preferred.

Responsibilities

- Provide scientific direction on all projects, ensure the rigor, and quality of all work

- Manage and mentor research and project staff
- Help set and contribute to organizational priorities as part of the management team
- Report to the Executive Director
- Work collaboratively with senior faculty members at the University of Chicago and elsewhere, other research directors, and with partner agencies
- Contribute to the scientific content of research proposals
- Assist the Executive Director and other faculty affiliates in supporting fundraising, dissemination, and policymaker outreach activities
- Contribute to strategic conversation about which new projects and initiatives the Crime and Education Lab should take on
- Management of staff and leadership on organizational initiatives

Required Job Seeker Documents

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Writing Sample
- Reference Letters (optional)
- Reference Contact Information

To Apply: Please submit a resume, cover letter, writing sample, reference contact information, and optional reference letters to UChicago's Workday system, search for requisition **JR02020**. Please find instructions on how to access the application below. **NOTE:** When applying, all required documents **MUST** be uploaded under the Resume/CV section of the application

- If you have questions about the Workday application system, please contact: https://uchicago.service-now.com/sso?id=ssc_sc_cat_item&sys_id=cf359d671316660030c0bc0caf3244b02d.
- If you have an active UChicago Workday employee account, you will need to complete the Internal Candidate application process. Internal Candidate instructions: Log into Workday and select the career worklet.
- External Candidates should apply to the specific Lab at <https://uchicago.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/External>

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