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## **Background:**

The Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) is a research center in the Department of Economics at the University of Notre Dame. Through rigorous impact evaluations, LEO aims to identify the innovative, effective and scalable programs that help people move out of poverty. LEO's research is conducted by faculty from the University of Notre Dame as well as scholars from across the country with expertise in designing and evaluating the impact of domestic anti-poverty programs. Our research initiatives span a wide range of poverty focus areas including job readiness, homelessness, juvenile recidivism, early childhood development.

LEO works to reduce poverty by:

- **Evaluating Program Effectiveness:** To promote rigorous evaluations of domestic anti-poverty programs, LEO connects on-the-ground social service providers with a national network of academic researchers. Our Faculty Affiliates and practitioners work together to evaluate the impact of innovative programs through randomized controlled trials and natural experiments.
- **Improving Service Provision:** LEO works closely with local Catholic Charities agencies and other service providers to design anti-poverty programs that are informed by the most rigorous research.
- **Improving Policy Design:** To encourage evidence-based policy decisions, LEO disseminates its key research findings to policymakers interested in designing effective programs to reduce poverty in the United States.

## **Job Description:**

Research Assistants are actively involved in LEO program evaluations. Their primary responsibilities include data collection, statistical and econometric analysis, and research report writing. RAs also study the structure of innovative anti-poverty initiatives throughout the Catholic Charities network. Research Assistants will work closely with other researchers on LEO's staff, Faculty Affiliates, and service providers at Catholic Charities and other non-profits. Summer RAs are expected to work full time for an 11 week period.

We are recruiting for both on-site (at the LEO offices in South Bend) and field-based (at the offices of our service provider partners around the country) positions for summer 2017. Field-based RAs perform many of the same functions as the on-site RAs, but work closely with the service provider partners to implement the research project design and have the opportunity to attend site visits and observe the interventions we are studying in-person.

## **Qualifications:**

- Strong analytical skills
- Strong writing and communication skills
- Course Requirements (to be completed before start date): Statistics (required); Econometrics (strongly preferred); Intermediate Microeconomics (preferred);

**Application Deadline:**

The application deadline for students who will be studying abroad during the 2018. Spring semester is Monday, October 29, 2018.

The application deadline for all other applicants is Monday, February 4, 2019.

**Requested Document Notes:**

Please download and complete the Application Cover Sheet and submit it with your resume, cover letter, and writing sample on Go IRISH.

The writing sample can be taken from a course assignment; please keep the length to no more than 3 pages.