



Partnering in Education Research  
Center for Education Policy Research  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

# BECOME A PIER PARTNER

## HOST A HARVARD DOCTORAL STUDENT FOR THE SUMMER

The Partnering in Education Research (PIER) Fellowship is working to solve a fundamental problem in policy-relevant research: Researchers need to ask timely, relevant questions, and practitioners need more research capacity to answer them. The PIER Fellowship aims to bridge the gap between academia and the classroom.

Based at the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard University, the PIER Fellowship connects talented Ph.D. students with school systems for summer internships.

PIER Fellows will collaborate with their host organization to conduct a high-quality research analysis about an important question identified by the organization. In return, the host organization will provide the fellow with insights into working with practitioners and a modest stipend to cover summer living expenses.

The PIER Fellowship is currently seeking state departments, school districts, and education organizations to host fellows for future summer residencies. The PIER Fellowship accepts only eight summer placements per year.



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[cepr.harvard.edu/pier](http://cepr.harvard.edu/pier) | [@HarvardCEPR](https://twitter.com/HarvardCEPR) | [#PIERfellow](https://twitter.com/PIERfellow)

## CURRENT PIER FELLOW PROFILES AND PROJECTS

PIER Fellows are highly talented Harvard Ph.D. students in the social sciences who have been selected to receive special training to develop questions with policymakers, work productively with school agencies, and communicate these results to leaders and decision makers. During the summer, PIER Fellows design and execute an eight-week research project that will answer a question of importance to their partner agency.



### Olivia Chi

**Ph.D. candidate, Harvard Graduate School of Education**

Olivia's research interests include the economics of education, teacher labor markets, and inequality. Prior to her doctoral program, she was a research analyst at the Center for Education Policy Research, where she worked on projects related to teacher effectiveness. This summer, Olivia will be working with the Wake County Public School System in North Carolina to study whether computer-aided instruction has improved middle school student achievement.



### Christine Mulhern

**Ph.D. candidate, Harvard Graduate School of Education**

Christine's research focuses on increasing access to and success in college. Prior to her doctoral program, she worked with Ithaca S+R to conduct research and engage with leaders and practitioners in higher education. This summer, Christine will be working with the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in Maryland to explore possible predictors for college attendance and completion among HCPSS graduates.



### Andrew Bacher-Hicks

**Ph.D. candidate, Harvard Kennedy School**

Andrew's research interests focus on issues of human capital and educational inequality. Prior to his doctoral program, he was a research manager at the Center for Education Policy Research, where he worked on projects to answer policy questions to improve large urban school districts. This summer, Andrew will be working with the New Jersey Department of Education to conduct a study on teacher retention and mobility among novice teachers.

## TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS FOR EDUCATION AGENCIES

Agencies interested in hosting a PIER Fellow during the summer of 2019 will complete the following steps:

**November 2018:** Submit a brief research proposal by November 30 via [bit.ly/PIERpartner2019](https://bit.ly/PIERpartner2019)

**January 2019:** Be matched with a PIER Fellow by January 2019

**June 2019:** Host a PIER Fellow, starting June 2019

***For placements outside of Massachusetts, selected agencies will need to provide a stipend to cover housing and transportation costs for each PIER Fellow hosted.***

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