



Data Scientist Fellow, Growth Lab

Center for International Development at Harvard University

What we do

The Center for International Development (CID) at Harvard University works to advance the understanding of development challenges and offer viable solutions to problems of global poverty. CID, consecutively named one of the top five global think tanks in international development, is recognized as a global leader in research to advance economic growth, social progress and governance reform in the developing world.

While other groups in economic development work on a priori models and development reports, CID believes in the power of data and of complexity science. This leads to a number of challenging tasks and a thirst for innovative solutions.

CID has been endowed by several technology partners, including a company facilitating payments around the world and a global telecommunications company, which provide exclusive access to their unique and vast datasets to create public goods and insights.

CID is growing fast and we are looking for creative, self-directed Data Scientists who want to join a small data science team and have a massive impact on improving the lives of the bottom half of the world.

We'd like to get to know you if ...

- You enjoy in-depth research and finding answers to complicated questions about network science
- You are fascinated by algorithms, data and complex network analysis
- Communicate ideas with clarity and precision
- You have a machine learning background
- You have a network analysis background
- You have networks science experience (networkx, igraph or similar)
- You know Python (numpy/scipy, pandas, etc.)
- You like occasional free food, 100 feet of snow in winter, and funny t-shirts

We would love it if you also ...

- Enjoy torturing data until it starts speaking knowledge
- Can write fast, ugly code that gets the job done and then improve it
- Have web crawling abilities
- Are not scared of dealing with hundreds of gigabytes of data
- Have knowledge of various data mining tools and D3

What you'll do...

- Research complex networks
- Be part of a multidisciplinary team, finding CS solutions that aid economics research, and write about this
- Perform research to be published in CS conferences

Some things we're working on

The Global Knowledge Exchange Space. We're observing knowledge exchange travels across the globe, trying to crack the enigma of why some countries are so central in the knowledge space.

The Skill Unreachability Problem. Productive areas are concentrated in parts of the city that are time- and money- expensive to reach, so far away poor people cannot work in the places that can pay for their skills. We are fixing this, with a 250GB dataset from Telefonica that allows us to calculate commute trips across Colombia.

The Structure and Function of Governments. We are crawling the web looking for all traces of activities of U.S. states governments, answering the questions of what are governments actually doing and what do they provide to society.

Get in touch

We work in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We'd love to hear from you! Email us at CID@hks.harvard.edu with reasons as to why you'd make a great fit.