

Economist and Director of Forecasting, Bureau of Business & Economic Research

The Bureau of Business & Economic Research (BBER) invites applicants for the position of Economist and Director of Forecasting. The position directs the BBER's forecasting efforts and is also responsible for designing, maintaining and extending its databases to support all of the BBER's research activities. The incumbent is expected to carry out all of the activities related to the development and operations of economic, demographic and other statistical forecasting models; including but not limited to formulating recommendations and plans; providing advice/consultation on economic, statistical, and database relationships; and collaborating on plan data collection methods for specific projects. The incumbent is expected to conduct peer-reviewed research and disseminate research findings to the public in non-technical language, including presentations at the Montana Economic Outlook Seminars.

The Economist and Director of Forecasting must be able to collaborate with other BBER employees to attract grants, contracts and other outside funding and to take a leadership role in conducting externally funded projects to achieve timely and successful outcomes. This position also serves as the Montana representative to the Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates with the U.S. Census Bureau.

This position is a full-time MUS Contract, 12 month position, and reports to the Director of BBER.

The University of Montana is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer committed to diversity as a core value. We support equal access and welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds, experiences, abilities and perspectives. This position is eligible for veterans' preference in accordance with Montana State Law.

Required Qualifications

- Master's degree in economics or a related field.
- Independence, initiative, leadership, communications, and persistence.
- Thoroughly trained in the theories, principles, and methods of demographics and economics and have demonstrated experience in statistical models, database design and project management.
- Ability to communicate effectively with clients, make presentations, and to be able to manage complex projects requiring ingenuity and creativity.
- Demonstrated ability to compile, analyze, and report data to explain and forecast the various research topics, applying mathematical models and statistical techniques.
- Ability to identify relationships and trends in data, as well as any factors that could affect the results of research.
- Ability to develop and test designs, sampling techniques, and analytical methods; as well as prepare data for processing by organizing information, checking for any inaccuracies, and adjusting and weighting the raw data.
- Ability to evaluate the methods and procedures used to obtain data to ensure validity, applicability, efficiency, and accuracy.
- Ability to plan and implement security measures to safeguard database information

Preferred Qualifications

- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in econometric and statistical model-building as well as database management.
- Demonstrated capacity to work independently and in teams to bring complex research projects to a successful conclusion.
- Extensive knowledge and experience in statistical software, database tools, and resources in regional economic and demographic research.
- Ability to work independently to develop and direct all of the BBER's forecasting activities and to make non-technical public presentations of research findings.
- Ability to manage all aspects of a research program, including budgets and personnel, research development and strategic planning.

About BBER and University of Montana

The Bureau's purpose is to serve the general public, as well as people in business, labor, and government, by providing an understanding of the economic environment in which Montanans live and work.

UM provides a culture that values hard work, intellectual curiosity, diversity, collegiality, innovative thinking, and teamwork, making it a great place to grow and develop professionally. Located at the heart of western Montana's stunning natural landscape, UM attracts first rate teachers, researchers, and students from around the world. A city within a city – with its own eateries, stores, medical facilities, banking and postal services, and zip code – UM has an increasingly diverse population and rich culture.

How to Apply

Please submit applications online at <http://bit.ly/1637bber>.

Priority Application Date: September 22, 2016. The initial review of applications will begin on September 23, 2016. Applications received after 9/22 *may be* considered; the position will remain open until filled.

Complete applications must include:

- A **letter of interest** addressing the required experience and qualification for position.
- **Detailed resume** listing education and describing work experience
- Names and contact information for **three (3) professional references**

ADA/EOE/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer. Finalists must submit to a criminal background check.