

Paid RA Positions: Measuring Geopolitical Alignment

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招募简介(中文摘要)

我们正在招募至多 6 名北京大学同学（本科 / 硕士 / 博士均可）参与一项有偿研究助理工作——对一个 1950–2024 年、覆盖 193 个联合国成员国的双边地缘政治事件数据库进行人工审核（用档案、新闻和学术文献独立编码每年的重要事件）。项目约 12 周（2026 年夏季开始），每人 120–150 小时，¥75 / 小时（按 CUHK 标准每月发放，总计约 ¥9,000–11,250）。该数据库支撑 Princeton / CUHK / Yale / Michigan 团队的多篇国际政治经济学论文。国际关系、政治学、历史、区域研究、经济学等方向尤为欢迎，其他相关背景同学亦欢迎申请。详情见下方英文说明；申请请将 CV 与 200–300 字英文意向陈述同时发送给 tianyufan.econ@gmail.com 和 mai.wo@yale.edu（主题：GGE Audit RA — 你的姓名），滚动审核，鼓励早投。

English Version

We are recruiting up to six Peking University students for a paid research-assistant project on geopolitical events, international relations, and economic research. The work is substantive, well-structured, and gives students direct, hands-on exposure to the empirical workflow of an active research program.

About the project

We are building a new dataset of bilateral political relations among all 193 UN member states from 1950 to 2024. The dataset supports three working papers on geopolitics and economic growth, geopolitics and international trade, and geopolitical alignment measurement, including:

- Fan, [Measuring Geopolitical Alignment and Economic Growth](#)
- Fan, Wo, and Xiang, [Geopolitical Barriers to Globalization](#)

Because the dataset is constructed with the assistance of large language models (LLMs), we are conducting an independent human audit to validate the coded events against the reading of trained researchers using conventional sources. RAs are not doing routine data entry—they are part of the credibility check for a serious research project. The audit is intended to be included in the appendices of the related papers.

What you will do

- Complete a paid training and calibration module on well-documented historical cases, with one-on-one feedback before the main audit begins.
- Read source materials (archives, newspapers, scholarly literature) on your assigned country-pair-years.
- Independently identify the salient bilateral political events of each year and code them according to a structured codebook (typically around 30–40 minutes per case).
- Compare your human judgments against the existing model-generated records.
- Attend short weekly check-ins for questions, feedback, and ongoing calibration.

Generative AI tools are not permitted in the audit work—independent human judgment is precisely what makes the validation meaningful.

Who we are looking for

- Peking University students at any level —undergraduate, master’s, or PhD. Backgrounds in international relations, political science, history, area studies, economics, or related disciplines are particularly welcome, but applications from any field with relevant interest are also encouraged.
- Strong English reading ability (most source material is in English).
- Demonstrated interest in international relations, diplomatic history, or political economy.
- Careful, reliable, and willing to follow a written codebook precisely.
- Availability for the full 12-week duration.
- Prior research-assistant, coding, or independent-research experience is preferred, not required. We welcome strong students who are looking for their first formal research role.

Time commitment and compensation

Duration	About 12 weeks, starting summer 2026
Workload	10–12 hours per week, 120–150 hours total per student
Compensation	¥75 per hour, paid monthly per CUHK standard practice; approximately ¥9,000–11,250 total per student

What you will gain

- Hands-on training in empirical research design, source evaluation, and structured coding.
- Exposure to an active international political economy research program with collaborators at Princeton, CUHK, Yale, and Michigan.
- A clear, structured research experience that can serve as a substantive talking point in graduate-school applications or future research conversations.
- Students who perform strongly may be considered for future RA opportunities on related projects.

How to apply

Please send one email containing:

1. A current CV / resume.
2. A short statement of interest (200–300 words): your background, why this project interests you, and your availability over the next four months.
3. *Optional*: a writing sample in English (e.g., a course paper, research note, or analytical excerpt).

to Tianyu Fan (tianyufan.econ@gmail.com) and Mai Wo (mai.wo@yale.edu) —please include both addresses on the same email, using the subject line “GGE Audit RA —[Your Name]”.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis; we encourage early submission. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a brief online interview before final selection.

Project team

- Tianyu Fan (PI) —Princeton · CUHK —tianyufan.econ@gmail.com
- Mai Wo (Co-PI) —Yale —mai.wo@yale.edu
- Wei Xiang (Co-PI) —Michigan —xwe@umich.edu

Applicants from all backgrounds and academic levels are encouraged to apply.