

## Postdoctoral Fellowship in Research on Education Policy and Practice

The Tennessee Education Research Alliance (TERA) invites applications for a two year Postdoctoral Fellowship in Research on Education Policy and Practice. The postdoctoral fellowship is a training opportunity aimed at building research design, analysis, and implementation skills through the study of school turnaround, educator labor markets, early literacy, and educators' professional learning. The centerpiece of the fellowship is the opportunity for sustained participation in a research-policy-practice partnership aimed at informing education policy and practice decisions in Tennessee.

### About TERA

The Tennessee Education Research Alliance (TERA) is a research-policy-practice partnership between the Tennessee Department of Education and Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. Powered by a top-quality longitudinal data set and a commitment with the state to explore key questions of state policy and practice, TERA is poised to be a national leader in practice-focused research.

TERA conducts research on questions of greatest urgency to the state and ensures that actionable findings are brought to the attention of policymakers and practitioners to whom they are important. TERA aims to directly and immediately inform Tennessee's education policy and practice.

TERA's research agenda focuses on:

- Improving early reading,
- Reimagining state support for professional learning,
- Driving improvement in low-performing schools, and
- Strengthening Tennessee's education labor market.

There also are opportunities for fellows to pursue research outside these areas of focus.

### About the Fellowship

Potential candidates for the postdoctoral program are Ph.D graduates with an interest in becoming independent researchers who focus on education policy in academic or professional research organizations.

TERA aims to recruit candidates with a strong background in quantitative methods whose past research or areas of study have focused on issues in education policy. We anticipate successful applicants will come from the fields of education, economics, or public policy, though we encourage applications from researchers with social science training in other fields.



Postdoctoral scholars will be afforded a unique set of experiences and direct connections in the Tennessee education policy landscape. TERA and its affiliated researchers are regularly involved in conversations with state policymakers and stakeholders about policy development and the impact of research on policy and practice in Tennessee. Postdoctoral scholars will have opportunities to work with and conduct rigorous, mixed-methods research in the field of education through access to well-developed, large-scale data systems. This work will occur in a highly collaborative environment with multiple researchers, doctoral students, faculty members, and state partners. The fellowship will provide numerous opportunities for postdoctoral scholars not only to develop as independent researchers but to learn to participate in research teams and build connections with researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Postdoctoral scholars will be encouraged and mentored to develop a research agenda that leads to published products for academic, policy, and practice audiences.

Review of applications will begin in December 2017 and will continue until the position is filled. The fellowship will begin in early 2018, and fellows are required to relocate to Nashville, Tennessee.

Applicants should submit: a cover letter addressing their qualifications, interest, and fit with the description of the position; curriculum vitae; 1-2 writing samples; and the names and contact information of three academic references.

Interested applicants can contact Erin O'Hara, Executive Director of the Tennessee Education Research Alliance, at [erin.c.ohara@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:erin.c.ohara@vanderbilt.edu) for more information.

TERA and Vanderbilt University are Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employers. We strongly encourage applications from all qualified candidates, without regard to race/color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.