The Research Fellows Program is an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience applying economic knowledge and producing market research valued by businesses. Students can stay on campus but still have the opportunity to engage in research activity that they might do as an intern or entry-level employee working in a real business setting. The program is competitive; a maximum of 20 students will be selected to participate this semester.

Students will work in small groups (3-4 per group) to gather macroeconomic and industry-specific data, analyze and interpret this information, and use findings to develop recommendations for simulated clients. Each semester’s research will focus on a different business line. Each group will examine data pertaining to unemployment rates, personal income, uncollectible debt, and collection laws. They will analyze this data with an eye to the accounts receivable management industry and private collection agencies, explaining their findings in a final executive summary and a visual presentation.

In addition to exploring a career option appropriate for economics majors, starting in Spring 2016, students who succeed in the program will receive 2 credits through ECON488K: Applied Market Research Practicum. Students can also obtain a letter of recommendation from a respected business executive and be well-positioned to draw on a network of business contacts, opening the door for post-graduation employment opportunities.

The Department of Economics has partnered with Kaulkin Ginsberg, a leading local firm providing M&A and strategic consulting services to other businesses. Mike Ginsberg, president and CEO, will supervise the students in conjunction with Dr. Cindy Clement, Director of Undergraduate Studies for the department. Students with questions about the program should contact Dr. Clement via email: clement@econ.umd.edu

Minimum qualifications include:

- Junior or Senior ECON major
- Cumulative GPA at the University of Maryland of at least 3.0
- Successful completion of ECON325 and ECON326
- Coursework or other experience using Excel, Access, or similar software
- Required to register for ECON488K and meet on campus Monday evenings 5:30 to 7:30 from January, 25th - April 4th.
Department of Economics  
Application for Research Fellows Program (ECON488K)  
Spring 2016  
**Deadline to apply: Monday, November 23, 2015**

**Personal Information:** (Please make sure your responses are fully legible.)

Name: ___________________________    UID: ______________________

Email Address: ___________________________

Primary phone number: _______________________        GPA: ________________

Double Major/Minor (if applicable) ______________________________________

By signing this application, you are committing to an average of 10 hours a week from January 25th through April 4th for this class. Most Fellows meetings will take place on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 in Tydings Hall; you will carry out research activities on your own schedule during the rest of the week and report findings at meetings. You also are agreeing to allow an employee of Kaulkin Ginsberg to view the documents you provide with this application.

Signature: ___________________________       Date: ______________________

**Application Materials Checklist:**

_____ Completed Application (this page)

_____ Unofficial transcript (obtainable via a link found at Testudo)

_____ Essay explaining why you want to participate in this program and what skills you can contribute to the research activity. Essays must be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 600 words typed, double spaced, in 12 point font.

Submit completed applications in person to Tydings 3108 or by email to ugadvising@econ.umd.edu before 2:00 PM on Monday, November 23, 2015

***Incomplete applications will not be reviewed***

You will hear by early December if you are accepted. Please keep your schedule clear to register for ECON488K: Applied Market Research which meets Mondays from 5:30 - 7:30pm.