JOIN OUR TEAM AT THE NATIONAL POLICE FOUNDATION!
RESEARCH DATA SCIENTIST

WHO WE ARE

The National Police Foundation is a national non-partisan and non-profit organization that has been conducting innovative research on policing for nearly 50 years. The professional staff at the National Police Foundation works closely with policing and other public safety agencies, researchers and policymakers to develop insights, tools and other resources to inform change and policing effectiveness. The National Police Foundation has been on the forefront of policing research and consistently played a role in transforming policing towards a community orientation that is widely embraced today. The National Police Foundation works all over the United States, Latin America and beyond. For additional information on our organization and our work please visit www.policefoundation.org.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Do you want to use your data analytics for impact and help improve policing in the United States? The National Police Foundation (NPF) is seeking a data scientist with three to five years of experience to join its Research Division at its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, as our Research Data Scientist.

As a critical member of the Research Division, the Research Data Scientist will play a critical role in research, assistance and innovation projects and eventually managing the NPF’s data science program. The Research Data Scientist will work to find solutions to complex data problems which will enable the NPF to undertake more sophisticated research with large untapped data and using new analytical tools.

The Research Data Scientist will work closely with team members to identify data needs and opportunities; find, design, clean, organize, and analyze data; and present results to internal and external audiences throughout the world. The NPF encourages independent and creative problem solving; this role offers opportunities for exposure to a wide range of projects and topics and professional growth. In addition, you’ll have the opportunity to build our data science program from the ground up, shaping it to meet the Foundation’s vision for better policing and safer communities.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Key primary duties and responsibilities include:

- Designing and building databases, data collection systems, data analytics, and other strategies that optimize our research team’s efficiency and quality and support the NPF’s business analytics and analysis.
  - Proposing strategies to address novel project challenges, including appropriate data storage, visualizations, and analytics
- Identifying, acquiring, and extracting unstructured data from various sources, including websites and PDFs
- Processing, cleaning, and verifying the integrity of data used for analysis
- Conducting spatial and non-spatial data analysis and visualization
- Updating and maintaining existing SQL-based databases
- Conducting text analytics through fuzzy matching, Natural Language Processing, and other approaches
- Making datasets accessible by, for example, creating user friendly web-based frontends
- Creating data collection tools that support the needs of projects

• Serving as a resource to team members across NPF divisions and other NPF partners
  - Developing a clear understanding of the National Police Foundation’s mission and the research team’s work in order to identify research opportunities
  - Clearly communicating internally and externally (with our practitioner partners) about data challenges, solutions, and opportunities
  - Helping translate complex data into insights for Foundation staff and outside constituencies (including internal insights related to our work, financial position, and reach)
  - Providing accurate time estimates and delivering high-quality work on time to keep large projects on track

• Presenting data, analysis, and findings to external audiences
  - In coordination with web designers, applying data visualization techniques including the development of web-based interactive products
  - Describing research methods in publications, including reports and peer-reviewed journal articles
  - Preparing tools and datasets for public archiving including code, codebooks, and deidentified data

DESIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Required qualifications include:

- Bachelor’s degree in data science or a related field and a minimum of three years of professional experience OR a bachelor’s degree in the social sciences and a minimum of five years of professional experience in data science position
- Proficiency in Python, including web application development (e.g., Django) and spatial analysis (e.g., Arcpy), SQL, data visualization tools (e.g., Tableau), and one or more statistical software packages (e.g., statsmodels, R, Stata, and/or SPSS)
- Experience with managing, manipulating and analyzing large data sets, including performing data quality assessments for missing, incomplete, or inaccurate data
- Great communications and collaboration skills, as well as ability to work independently
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Exceptional attention to detail
- Ability to manage multiple projects and meet deadlines
- A drive to learn and master new technologies and techniques
- A passion for the National Police Foundation’s mission

Preferred qualifications include:

- Applied statistics training and/or skills
• Demonstrated ability to communicate research findings via published manuscripts or presentations at conferences
• Demonstrated ability to “translate” research findings into clear and compelling prose that results in actionable information for practitioner audiences
• Ability to develop web-ready visualizations
• Experience working with criminal justice and policing data
• Experience analyzing survey data
• Experience combining multiple complex datasets of different types (e.g., administrative data with survey data)

HOW TO APPLY

JOB DETAILS: This is a full-time position that reports to the Director of Research. Salary is commensurate with experience and includes a competitive benefits package.

DEADLINE AND APPLICATION INFORMATION: Open until filled. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Must agree to a background investigation and must be authorized to work in the United States.

POSITION LOCATION: The National Police Foundation headquarters in Arlington, VA

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS: Interested individuals should apply through the following email: careers@policefoundation.org
1. Résumé
2. Cover letter
3. Names and contact information for at least three references

*The National Police Foundation is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer*