Information for Affiliates

Many of the links below direct to Google Drive. These are internal resources for affiliates and J-PAL staff. Staff have access through their povertyactionlab.org email ID, and affiliates can request access using their Google account. To make suggestions on content to add or change on this page, please email Tom Bangura.

Affiliates@J-PAL	Research Resources	Money Matters	Human Resources
Affiliates J-PAL's Mission Important Policies Organization Chart Who Should I Contact? Sectors and Initiatives Affiliate Directory	Data analysis replication Data publication AEA registry assistance AEA Registry Human Subjects/IRB Questionnaire Database Research Manuals	Budgets & Grant writing Calendar of Funding Opportunities	Hiring through J-PAL Recruitment Database Request a Job Posting Research Staff Training

Affiliates

J-PAL affiliates should be currently affiliated with a university or its equivalent, where academic freedom to publish results is protected, either as a professor or as a principal investigator. Researchers working at "funding and implementing" organizations (e.g. the World Bank, ADB or IDB) are not invited to be affiliates because of potential conflict. Nominations for new affiliates are reviewed by J-PAL's Executive Committee. Current J-PAL affiliates can be found here.

Important Policies

For projects carried out through J-PAL or funded by its research initiatives, J-PAL has policies in place that guarantee research quality, ethical responsibility, and transparency. J-

PAL staff in the regional offices are able to help affiliates implement these requirements. J-PAL Global also offers data publication and trial registration assistance.

- J-PAL Research Protocols

  Our Research Protocols describe Minimum Must Do's and Best Practices to ensure the ethical conduct of research, data security, and data quality. Please review these protocols carefully. All projects funded or carried out by J-PAL must adhere to these guidelines.

- IPA Research Protocols

  Our partner organization Innovations for Poverty Action has a similar set of Research Protocols in place. They give a comprehensive overview on the steps to implement a high-quality field project.

- Trial Registry guidelines and information on how to register

  In 2012, the American Economic Association in cooperation with J-PAL implemented the AEA RCT registry. All J-PAL funded projects must be registered. Affiliates are encouraged to register all their RCTs. Note that some journals or funders also require trial registration in a public registry.

- Data publication guidelines

  All data collected for J-PAL funded projects must be published in de-identified form as IRB protocols allow. Affiliates are encouraged to publish all their RCT data. Many funders have also begun to require publication of data that was collected as part of funded projects.

J-PAL Research Services for Affiliates

Data analysis replication "pre-publication"
Several Research Transparency Graduate Fellows are available to work with J-PAL affiliates to create analysis and data files ready for "push button replication" on their

randomized evaluations: even before a paper is peer-reviewed or published, this service ensures that data analysis and data cleaning processes used in the research are robust, and all results can be replicated.

Interested affiliates are assigned a Graduate Fellow who can provide any or all of the following services, depending on the affiliate's needs:

- Replicate the analyses described in the paper
- Ensure that all estimation details are described clearly and completely in the paper
- Format replication analysis program files, including for tables and figures, ready for publication
- Replicate and/or complete any data cleaning, labeling, and organization needed to prepare the data for publication
- Prepare a full replication report.

All replication work carried out by a Graduate Fellow is strictly confidential.

Graduate Fellows are selected in a competitive process once a semester and receive full funding from J-PAL. Applicants must be PhD students in Economics, Political Science, Public Policy, or related disciplines.

Please submit your expression of interest by emailing James Turitto, Research Manager at J-PAL Global, at jturitto@povertyactionlab.org. J-PAL's pre-publication replication services are part of our research transparency work and funded by a grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF).

Data publication

J-PAL's research team will work with you to clean, label, and document datasets collected as part of a randomized trial

before publishing them in the J-PAL dataverse or another data repository of your choice. Requests for data publication services can be submitted here.

J-PAL's data publication services are part of our research transparency work and funded by a grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF).

AEA RCT registry assistance

J-PAL's research team will provide affiliates assistance in registering their projects on the AEA RCT Registry, such as creating drafts based off of information in a research proposal, an application to your Institutional Review Board (IRB), narrative report, etc. For help requests, or other questions and comments, please contact Keesler Welch (Trial Registry Administrator, J-PAL) at keesler@povertyactionlab.org. Please keep in mind, the registry is only as meaningful as it is comprehensive. We appreciate your support in this effort.

Annotated Descriptions of Selected Resources in J-PAL Shared Files:

Human Subjects [back to top]

J-PAL's maintains a Google Drive folder that contains some research resources to which all our affiliates and staff have access (please click on "request access" if you cannot see the folder).

The Human Subjects section in the J-PAL shared Google Drive contains resources relating to human subjects and IRB, including information on protocols, IRB documents, and templates.

The section on *Ethical Research Concerns – Other*

Papers contains papers on the ethics of research, e.g. a paper on Conducting Ethical Economics Research: Complications from the Field and Facebook's Controversial Emotion Experiment.

In addition to the above resources on Google Drive, the following information might also be of use:

Links to some of the most frequently used IRBs by our affiliates:

1. Harvard Committee on the Use of Human Subjects
2. MIT COUHES
3. Northwestern IRB
4. Yale IRB

Links to Human Subjects certifications required by J-PAL and IPA for their research staff:

- CITI (MIT Staff)
- CITI (J-PAL, non-MIT staff)
- NIH (IPA and others)

Research Manuals [back to top]

J-PAL maintains a Google Drive folder that contains some research resources to which all our affiliates and staff have access (please click on "request access" if you cannot see the folder).

The Research Manuals section on Google Drive aggregates guidelines, manuals, and documentation about J-PAL protocols across the research process. This runs the gamut from big-picture project management documentation such as our Research Protocols checklist to more niche topics such as tips for batch programming.

Manuals are separated by stage of the research process and can be browsed in google drive.

Please note that these resources are not managed actively.

Research Staff Training [back to top]

J-PAL and IPA conduct three annual Research Staff Trainings in Kenya, in India, and the US, hosted by IPA, J-PAL South Asia, and J-PAL North America, respectively. In the meantime, learn more about staff training.

Host	Location	2020	2021*	2022*
IPA Kenya	Nairobi, Kenya	April	April	April
J-PAL South Asia	India	September	September	September
J-PAL Global and J-PAL North America	Greenfield, NH, USA	October 18-23	November	November

*The exact training days for 2021 and 2022 will be confirmed in the preceding calendar year.

The objective of the training is to provide staff with the theoretical and technical foundations to design and coordinate high-quality research studies in the field. It covers the basics of randomized evaluations in the social sciences, research ethics and research transparency, as well as practical skills involved in managing a research project, designing effective questionnaires, ensuring data quality and security, collaborating with partner organizations, field team management, and data management and analysis.

Staff Training Content can be viewed on the J-PAL shared drive: includes sample agenda, lectures, case studies, presentations and course packet.

Course Coverage:

Theoretical topics

1. Research ethics
2. Research design (theory of change, measurement, etc.)
3. Randomization theory
4. Power calculation theory

Technical topics

1. Questionnaire design
2. Quality control in the field, for digital and paper surveys
3. Field team management
4. Data management
5. Programming an electronic survey in SurveyCTO
6. Stata programming, from beginner to advanced
7. Power calculations in Optimal Design
8. Data security

Cost of training:

The fee for Research Associates sent by J-PAL Affiliates depends on the training location, but in the past it has been about $2000 per participant. This fee covers training materials, accommodation and food for five days, and transportation from the destination airport or designated meeting locale to the training location. It does not include travel to the country where training is held, computer programs, or expenses outside of the training location and dates.

Interested in sending staff to a J-PAL Research Staff Training? Please contact training@povertyactionlab.org

Budgets and Grant Writing [back to top]

J-PAL maintains a Google Drive folder with research resources to which all our affiliates and staff have access (please click on "request access" if you cannot see the folder).

The Budgets and Grant Writing section on Google Drive contain guidelines on how to write grants and prepare budgets.

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https://www.povertyactionlab.org/for-affiliates