

**Policy Research Assistant**  
Addressing Forced Labor

Are you interested in the intersection of ocean science and policy and want to be part of building solutions for current and future ocean issues? If so, the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, an initiative of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, invites you to apply as a Policy Research Assistant.

The [Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions](#) (COS) catalyzes research innovation and action to improve the health of the oceans for the people who depend on them the most. COS capitalizes on Stanford's broad expertise in ocean science and in the many other disciplines crucial to developing ocean solutions including law, engineering, computer science, political science, design and business. Our core team of researchers and fellows partner with other research institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations, businesses and governments, as well as established and emerging leaders in the data revolution.

**Project Description**

There is a growing interest in developing tools, interventions, practices, and policies to address forced labor in fishing and the related goal of building anti-trafficking/anti-slavery resilience. However, to date, the most effective anti-slavery tools across sectors have been community-based tools, a feature often overlooked in fishing interventions due to the globalized nature of the sector and the work. This project will build on a previous conceptualization of an anti-slavery resilience framework, to understand the process and outcomes of building resilience against labor abuses in fishing, uniquely recognizing the port as a place-based community. Inspired by established ecological models of resilience, we aim to propose an adaptive resilience cycle that practitioners, activists, and policymakers can draw upon to inform the process of designing and delivering interventions and policy actions.<sup>1</sup>

**Job Duties**

The primary responsibility of the Policy Research Assistant is to support COS Research staff by searching, identifying, and analyzing all relevant regulatory frameworks for specific port-country combinations.

Specific tasks include:

- Conduct informal stakeholder interviews to focus and guide research on relevant regulatory frameworks (e.g., disembarkation, immigration, etc.). Potential countries to be investigated include Taiwan, Mauritius, Fiji, and the United Kingdom
- Extract data / information from legal / regulatory frameworks using a pro-forma template or general coding of legal frameworks
- Synthesize findings for the research team via internal memos and informal presentations
- Additional tasks as necessary

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, see [COS' Outlaw Ocean Policy Practicum webpage](#).

## **Qualifications**

We seek a detail-oriented, investigative, self-starting graduate student (preferably with experience in legal research) with the following interests, skills and experience:

- Experience conducting legal research, including searches for legal and regulatory frameworks and interpretation and synthesis of information
- Experience with international law or regulatory frameworks
- Preferred experience in performing stakeholder interviews
- Fluency in reading and writing of Mandarin (preferably both simplified and traditional characters used in Taiwan)
- Ability to work independently and within a team environment
- Superior organizational, planning and time management skills
- Demonstrated ability to organize and prioritize workload
- Attention to detail in organizing research and work products
- Strong communication skills

## **Start Date and Working Hours**

This position requires a 10-week commitment of 8–16 hours per week, over spring and/or summer 2021. Start date and working hours are negotiable. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

## **Location**

This position will be based at the Center for Ocean Solutions office at Stanford University (Palo Alto, CA). Given current restrictions related to COVID-19, all work will be done remotely.

## **To apply**

Please send the following materials to the recruiting team using the “applywithcos@stanford.edu” email address. Please include “COS FL Policy Research Assistant Application” in the email subject line.

- 1) Letter of interest providing background on your experience and applicable skills
- 2) Resume or CV outlining your education and professional experience
- 3) Contact information for three references

## **Deadline**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on April 12. The position will remain open until filled.

*Stanford is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.*