

CISLM Graduate Student Researchers

The Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media (CISLM) is looking for graduate students to join the research team in Fall 2023. Graduate student researchers would be responsible for supporting data collection and analysis, as well as reviewing research reports for accuracy pre-publication. They will have opportunities to publish or co-publish research with the center. Examples of work our graduate students have done:

- [Local News for Whom? A News Media Census of North Carolina](#)
- [Assessing Factors That Contribute to News Coverage at the North Carolina County Level](#)
- [Who Works in North Carolina's Newsrooms: Data from Organizational and Individual Surveys](#)

CISLM is an applied research center focused on growing a more equitable and sustainable future for local news, the journalists who make it and the communities that need it. Housed in the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, CISLM is funded by the John S. And James L. Knight Foundation and UNC's Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost. This position is based in the School at Carroll Hall, but there are opportunities for remote work.

The ideal candidates will be collaborative and will possess a strong knowledge of journalism and/or social science research methods, an interest in local news, and an understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis including statistical analysis, an eye for detail and an ability to work under deadline.

Reviewing Research Pre-Publication

Research reviewers will be responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the center's research reports by reviewing data, verifying results, and checking reported figures in text and charts. Each report takes between three to six hours to review, including meeting with the research director to review errors and check them for correction.

Responsibilities include:

- Checking datasets in Excel and CSV formats for errors
- Verifying the results of analyses, familiarity with statistical analysis a plus
- Checking that numbers in text and/or charts, graphs, and tables match one another and match analysis results
- Verifying the accuracy of references to other research
- Meeting with the research director to review errors and to verify that they are corrected.

Collecting and analyzing data

Researchers will be responsible for supporting the research team on data collection and research on on-going and new projects related to the sustainability and health of local news organizations, journalists and communities.

Responsibilities include:

- Data collection for content analysis, survey, and mapping projects
- Data analysis, experience with R/RStudio and Github a plus
- Writing literature reviews
- Drafting and editing research reports, including creating charts, graphs, and tables

Application Details

The Center anticipates producing at least three research reports in the upcoming year with the possibility of smaller, shorter pieces in between, and candidates have the opportunity to suggest projects within the scope of CISLM's areas of focus.

CISLM is a collaborative and welcoming work environment on Carroll Hall's third floor. We invite applications from graduate students with a range of backgrounds and experiences, including those who possess some but not all the skills and abilities listed above. If you aren't sure whether you'd be a fit, please reach out!

We anticipate 10 to 12 hours of work each week at a rate of \$25/per hour.

To apply, send a CV and two work samples to cislm@unc.edu by Aug. 31. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, though all should be received no later than Aug. 31.

Questions? Reach out to CISLM Research Director Jessica Mahone at jamahone@unc.edu or drop by the CISLM offices (CA 394-397) any Tuesday or Wednesday to meet the team.