

Research Team Member Recruitment

Research Team Member Recruitment for Wei-Ting Yen

This document is written for students interested in joining the research team. Please read it in full before applying. I want you to have realistic and well-grounded expectations about this position — what it can offer you and what it requires from you. If you finish reading and think "I'd like to give this a try," you are welcome to apply. If it doesn't feel like the right fit, this document will help you realize that early, saving time for both of us.

About My Research

I am a comparative political economy researcher. My research focuses on the political foundations of the welfare state — social policies such as pensions and health insurance — and on the factors that shape public support for or opposition to such policies.

Recent research topics of interest include:

- The relationship between war and the welfare state
- Labor market changes — including the impact of AI — and the development of social protection
- The influence of national identity on social solidarity and redistribution policy

Research methods span survey experiments, quantitative analysis, and qualitative comparative research. In addition to academic publications, I also produce public-facing writing for policy communities and media audiences.

Who I'm Looking For

The research team has two types of members. Regardless of whether you plan to pursue a PhD, both are welcome. What I value is the level of commitment. I will do my best to assign tasks, provide training, and develop your skills in line with your career goals.

Students interested in research — still in the training stage

Suitable candidates

- Third- or fourth-year undergraduate students
- First-year graduate (master's) students
- Those with experience in undergraduate research projects, research internships, or independent reading of academic literature are especially encouraged

Basic requirements

- Willingness to learn to read English-language academic articles
- Genuine interest in political science, political economy, or social policy
- Careful, organized, and willing to follow established procedures

Bonus qualifications

- Background in statistical analysis
- Familiarity with academic research processes

Students with existing research training

Suitable candidates

- Graduate students in their second year or above, currently writing a thesis, or holding a master's degree
- PhD students

Basic requirements

- Completed coursework in research methods and statistics, with a basic grasp of social science research design
- Ability to independently conduct and synthesize English-language academic literature reviews
- Quantitative or qualitative data processing skills

Bonus qualifications

- Familiarity with comparative politics, political economy, or social policy literature
- Experience with IRB applications, survey design, or data collection

What You'll Get

Systematic development of research skills

You will follow clear procedures and understand how every task you perform fits into the broader research project. As your skills grow, you will take on increasingly central responsibilities.

For those planning to pursue a PhD, the training will include academic writing for scholarly publication. For those not planning to pursue a PhD, training will also cover writing for public and general audiences — including accessible writing on research findings for wider readership.

I believe that in an era of rapid AI development, the ability to ask the right questions is becoming increasingly valuable. The training here focuses precisely on the core competencies AI cannot easily replace — situating literature in its intellectual context, developing a sense for good research questions, and moving from data to argument.

Collaboration and authorship opportunities

As your abilities develop, those who make core intellectual contributions to a project will have the opportunity to become genuine research collaborators — not just research assistants.

Letters of recommendation

For members who work seriously, I will provide specific, substantive letters of recommendation.

My hope is that this will be more than a line on your résumé. I will develop each team member starting from foundational tasks, building understanding of the research field and processes along the way. As your skills grow, you will take on increasingly central work and may ultimately participate as a genuine research collaborator. This takes time. If you have a real interest in this field, this should be a mutually enriching experience.

How I Work

Before applying, please carefully consider the following:

- I will not monitor your progress daily. You need to be able to work independently, provide regular written updates, and proactively raise questions when you get stuck. We will meet in person periodically to review progress.
- Research directions may shift as projects develop: some flexibility is required, with a willingness to adjust your focus as research questions evolve.

How to Apply

If after reading this you believe you are the right fit, please send the following materials to wyen@as.edu.tw:

- Your CV
- A brief self-introduction (no more than one page): who you are, why you are interested in this area of research, a description of relevant coursework, what you hope to gain from this collaboration, and your future goals