

Seeking Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) for Summer 2026 at the [Possibility Lab](#)

The Possibility Lab is composed of a team of policy researchers and practitioners who work with state, local and nonprofit partners to design, pilot, and scale new models of community participation for public-sector problem solving. We are a mix of faculty, led by Professor Amy Lerman, full-time staff, and students who value integrity, rigor, curiosity, and communication. Together, we celebrate our wins, learn from our missteps, and help each other—and our partners—find solutions. Through our work, we are focused on community-engaged public policy research that is co-designed in collaboration with government and community partners using evidence-based and rigorous research methods.

At the Possibility Lab, we believe that communities need to have a voice in the policies that affect them. The lab's I.M.P.A.C.T. Model offers a systematic process for clarifying the purpose of civic engagement, identifying partners and participants, choosing the appropriate design, and carrying out evidence-based strategies to arrive at community-informed policy solutions for public sector leaders.

GSRs are an integral part of the lab's projects conducting applied, community-engaged research with public-sector and nonprofit partners. We are seeking GSRs that can meaningfully contribute to our I.M.P.A.C.T. Model team. **The position is a 100% appointment for Summer 2026 starting May 26.** The position is eligible for hybrid work but two weekly in-person days are required. Some travel may be required. Spanish-speakers are strongly encouraged to apply. Rate of pay will be based on qualifications and experience, and in accordance with the [GSR salary table](#).

Responsibilities

Types of activities a GSR will undertake include:

- Working with partners to help design and implement community-engaged research engagements using our I.M.P.A.C.T. Model.
- Gathering, compiling, and interpreting both qualitative and quantitative community-engaged data.
- Assisting project partners in government and nonprofits with logistical support and project management.
- Documenting the Lab's efforts to institutionalize evidence-based practices in community engagement methods, analysis of results, presentation of findings, and collaborating with partners.

Qualifications

- Experience planning, leading, and facilitating direct community and/or civic engagements, such as deliberative democracy, charrettes, citizen/people's assemblies, and other direct participatory work.
- Familiarity with designing and implementing surveys, focus groups, and other methods for measuring public sentiment.
- Familiarity with and/or interest in the use of civic technologies to facilitate community engagement.
- Passion for reimagining civic engagement to improve policies, programs and systems that shape (in)equitable outcomes.
- Ability to take initiative, juggle multiple projects, and meet tight deadlines.
- Exceptional writing skills, and eagerness to improve writing ability through regular, constructive feedback.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Excellent organizational, project management skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to work both independently and also as a collaborative team member.
- Must meet [eligibility requirements](#), including being enrolled at UC Berkeley as a graduate student.

To Apply

- Submit cover letter and CV (as one pdf file) to possibilitylab@berkeley.edu by 3:00 pm, **March 13, 2026.**