

Polly Sea

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Dear Hiring Manager,

I write to put forth my candidacy for the Research Analyst position. I am a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's Master of Public Policy and Management Program at Heinz College, in which I was able to apply my passion for financial policy while refine a new technical skillset. My data analysis skills along with my interest of the Finance industry make me a natural fit for this position.

The mission of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau - to ensure that banks, lenders, and other financial companies treat citizen fairly – resonates with me on both a personal and professional level.

As a candidate, here are a few examples of what I can contribute:

A skilled researcher: From social safety net policy at the U.S. Government Accountability Office to genetic engineering at the USDA's Forest Products Laboratory, I've had a wide range of research experiences that have prepared me to tackle any topic. My systems project, CMU's analog to a master's thesis, was on student data privacy in the K-12 education sphere – a topic with which I had minimal prior experience and knowledge. I personally conducted the literature search and synthesis to provide my team with the background necessary to shape the scope and direction of our project.

A data interpreter: Due to the immersive quantitative focus of CMU's policy program, I can derive meaning from data sets using a variety of tools, including GIS, Tableau, SAS, and STATA. At the U.S. Government Accountability Office, I conducted data analysis to evaluate the impact of the Improper Payment Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA) of 2010. My work with IPERA project helped to identify 15 of 24 agencies that were noncompliant, accounting for \$132 billion.

A quick learner and problem solver: Before coming to Carnegie Mellon University, I had a background in social science research and political economy. With an interest in utilizing data analytics to support decisions, I chose to attend a graduate program that focuses on data analytics as well as public policy. During my time at Heinz, I quickly mastered various analytical and qualitative research skills that I have applied to practical projects. The application of these new skills not only advanced my skillset, but also gave me the opportunity to solve real-world problems.

I look forward to contributing my skills and experience in the Research Analyst position at the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau and hope to have the opportunity to speak with you further about how I can be an asset to your team.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Polly Sea