Atiyeh Hasanian

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February 11, 2026

NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp Application
National Bureau of Economic Research
1050 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Members of the Application Committee,

I am writing to apply to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp, to be held July 17–23, 2026, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I am currently a third-year PhD student in Economics at Northern Illinois University, where my research interests lie at the intersection of innovation economics, firm behavior, and labor markets.

My work focuses on how R&D incentives shape firm innovation strategies and downstream labor market outcomes. I am applying to the Innovation Research Boot Camp to strengthen my empirical approach to innovation research, receive feedback on my developing dissertation agenda, and engaging with scholars working on firm-level innovation and policy evaluation. Given the absence of specialized innovation coursework or faculty in my department, this program would provide valuable exposure to foundational ideas and frontier methods in the field.

A letter of recommendation in support of my application will be provided by:

Dr. Maria Ponomareva
Associate Professor of Economics
Department of Economics, Northern Illinois University
Email: mponomareva@niu.edu

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be grateful for the opportunity to participate in the 2026 cohort.

Sincerely,
Atiyeh Hasanian

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

PhD – Economics, Northern Illinois University (NIU), DeKalb, IL, USA **Aug2023 – Expected: 2028**

- Fields : Labor Economics, Public Finance, Econometrics

Master of Science – Statistics, Northern Illinois University (NIU), DeKalb, IL, USA **Expected: 2028**

TEACHING & WORK EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Economic Data Analysis (ECON 290), NIU, Department of Economics **Fall 2025**

- Taught undergraduate Economic Data Analysis with a focus on applied data skills using Excel, Power BI, and Tableau.
- Integrated regression and time-series concepts into applied data projects and dashboard projects.
- Taught data cleaning, transformation, visualization, and interpretation for economics projects.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, NIU, Department of Economics **2023 – Present**

- Assisted faculty in different economics courses through grading, problem-session support, and one-on-one student assistance.

Mentor, NABE Scholars Program, **Spring 2026 – Present**
Mentor, Ambition in Motion Mentorship Program, **Spring 2025 – Present**

- Supported an undergraduate mentee's professional development through structured guidance and goal alignment.
- Fostered the student's academic growth, confidence, and long-term career planning.

PHD COURSEWORK

- Economic Stats & Econometrics — Completed
- Math Methods for Economics — Completed
- Research Tools for Economists — Completed
- Microeconomic Analysis I — Completed
- Macroeconomic Analysis I — Completed
- Econometrics I — Completed
- Methods in Economics — Completed
- Microeconomic Analysis II — Completed
- Macroeconomic Analysis II — Completed
- Applied Time Series Analysis — Completed
- Private Valuation — Completed
- Introduction to Game Theory — Completed
- Public Sector Economics II — Completed

- Labor Market Analysis II — Completed
- Computational Economics — Completed
- Applied Regression Analysis — Completed
- Financial Economics II — In Progress
- Econometrics II — In Progress
- Research Seminar in Economics — In Progress

RESEARCH & DATA ANALYSIS PROJECTS

Carbon Tax and consumer welfare: A Review and Methodological Framework, NIU **In Progress**

- Conducting a comprehensive literature review on the welfare impacts of carbon taxation across income groups and consumption categories.
- Exploring potential extensions involving heterogeneous consumption elasticities and behavioral responses to carbon-induced price changes.
- Developing econometric methods to estimate consumer welfare responses to carbon price changes across income groups.

Forecasting Policy Uncertainty and Stock Market Dynamics, NIU **In Progress**

- Designed and implemented a Bayesian Vector Autoregressive (BVAR) model in Julia to forecast stock market returns (2000–2024) under varying levels of economic policy uncertainty.
- Conducted time-series preprocessing, structural identification, and forecasting evaluation to assess the impact of uncertainty shocks.
- Estimated impulse response functions (IRFs) to trace the dynamic effects of policy uncertainty shocks on stock market volatility and returns.

ECONOMETRICS & STATISTICAL SKILLS

- Linear and nonlinear regression; cross-sectional and panel-data econometrics.
- Time-series analysis: VAR, forecasting, uncertainty modeling.
- Bayesian methods: BVAR, Gibbs sampling, MCMC, state-space models, Kalman filtering.
- Causal inference: difference-in-differences, instrumental variables, fixed and random effects, treatment effects, regression discontinuity designs.
- Predictive modeling and model validation.

PROGRAMMING & DATA SKILLS

- Programming: Stata, Python, Julia, R, SQL
- Data & Tools: LaTeX, Git/GitHub, Jupyter Notebooks, Excel
- Visualization: Tableau, Power BI

CERTIFICATIONS

Social and Behavioral Research – Basic/Refresher, CITI Program (Credential ID: 69033554) **April 2025**
Advanced Data Visualization with Tableau, Coursera (Credential ID: YHHDD9R65ZGG) **July 2024**
SQL for Data Science, Coursera (Credential ID: EX4ZHYZJ46UW) **June 2024**

SERVICES & LEADERSHIP

Referee, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics Review, **Dec 2025 – Present**

Member, Women in STEM Advisory Panel, NIU **Aug 2024 – Present**

- Organized and coordinated the Women in STEM Lecture Series, inviting speakers that support women's advancement in STEM fields.

Vice President, Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES), NIU **Aug 2025 – Present**

- Initiated and organized the department's first Inspirational Talk Series, creating a platform for faculty to discuss their academic paths, challenges, and professional development insights.

HONORS & AWARDS

42nd Annual NABE Economic Policy Conference scholarships, NABE **Feb 2026**
Graduate Research Mentorship Training Scholarship, NIU **Oct 2025**
Sustainability and Research Innovation Congress Scholarship, NIU **June 2025**

Statement of Research Interests

My research interests lie at the intersection of innovation, firm behavior, and labor markets, with a focus on how R&D investments shape technological change and worker outcomes. In my primary project, I examine how firm-level R&D spending translates into innovation productivity and downstream employment effects. Using Compustat data on R&D expenditures combined with innovation measures from WARD, I study how variation in state-level R&D tax credits influences firms' innovation portfolios and labor demand. This work seeks to clarify how policy incentives affect both the direction of innovation and its distributional consequences in labor markets.

Looking ahead, I plan to develop this work into a cohesive dissertation agenda. One project will study how public R&D subsidies interact with private tax credits to accelerate transitions in clean energy and AI-related technologies, with a particular focus on how these policies affect firms' demand for STEM and high-skilled workers and shape regional labor market outcomes. Building on this, I will further examine how innovation incentives influence the direction of technological change and workforce composition across regions. Together, these projects aim to inform innovation policy debates amid renewed interest in industrial strategy and concerns about technological displacement.

Attending the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp represents a strategic investment in my long-term development as an innovation economist. My current work directly engages the boot camp's core themes—firm-level innovation measurement, policy evaluation, and linking micro-level innovation to aggregate labor outcomes. I am particularly eager to strengthen my empirical design and innovation measurement strategies through the boot camp's technical sessions, helping me refine identification and better position my work within the broader literature.

My recent experience as a peer reviewer for the Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics Review has strengthened my ability to critically assess empirical strategies and causal claims, and I am eager to further develop these skills through intensive feedback from boot camp faculty and peers. The program's collaborative environment and exposure to cutting-edge research will accelerate my dissertation progress and equip me to produce rigorous, policy-relevant scholarship. I view this boot camp as pivotal for transforming my research agenda into publishable work that bridges academia and policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Atiyeh Hasanian

Northern Illinois University
Department of Economics
Zulauf Hall 515
DeKalb, IL 60115-2828
(815) 753-1031
Fax (815) 752-1019

February 10, 2026

Dear colleagues:

I am writing this letter on behalf of **Atiyeh Hasanian**, and I cannot think of another student in our (admittedly small) PhD program for whom I would write such a letter. I had Atiyeh in two of my classes, I serve on her dissertation committee, and in my capacity as the Undergraduate Program Director, I supervised Atiyeh as one of our Graduate Student Instructors, so I had plenty of opportunities to observe her progress through our program, and here is my conclusion so far: Atiyeh truly wants to learn and do research, and she has the capacity to do both. Some examples to support this (I am sorry for the bullet points):

- Atiyeh is only in the third year of the program, but she is already working on two research projects (with two different faculty members), while most of our students don't get there till their fourth year. In my opinion, both of her projects can really benefit from the NBER Boot Camp.
- To develop her skills, Atiyeh is taking classes both in her home (Economics) and in Statistics department, and she is doing very well in these classes.
- In the fall semester of 2025, we sort of unexpectedly (for both us and Atiyeh), assigned Atiyeh to teach ECON 290 (our core undergraduate class on data analysis tools), and Atiyeh learned these tools (Power BI and Tableau) on the fly, and got really good teaching evaluations.

To sum up: **Atiyeh Hasanian** is amazing (both as a student and as a researcher, and she is a very good person, too), she loves to learn, and so she would be an excellent candidate for this NBER Boot Camp. Please feel free to contact me for any further assistance: I will be more than happy to help.

Sincerely,



Maria Ponomareva
mponomareva@niu.edu
Associate Professor
Undergraduate Director
Department of Economics
Northern Illinois University