

Research Specialist in International Pharmaceutical Policy Research

About PORTAL

Established in 2012, PORTAL is a leading academic research center dedicated to studying the regulation, use, evidence, and affordability of prescription drugs. Led by six Harvard Medical School faculty from a variety of disciplines, PORTAL brings together expertise in medicine, law, epidemiology, health policy, economics, and ethics to conduct rigorous research that informs policymaking. [Learn more about PORTAL](#)

PORTAL is based in the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, Department of Medicine, at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Position Details

PORTAL seeks a Research Specialist or Senior Research Assistant to support a research program at intersection of international trade, pharmaceutical markets, and regulatory policy. The position is well suited to a recent master's graduate (or motivated current master's student) who wants substantive, hands-on research experience.

The successful candidate will work closely with Prof. Thomas Hwang, faculty member of PORTAL who leads the Cancer Innovation and Regulation Initiative, and collaborators on projects examining how drug prices vary across countries, how trade policy shapes pharmaceutical markets, and how differences in international drug and medical device regulation affect access, innovation, and competition. For candidates outside of Switzerland, the role may include the opportunity to spend 1-2 months in Zurich, working with Prof. Kerstin Vokinger at ETH Zurich / University of Zurich (eligibility for Zurich placement may depend on work authorization).

The position will involve preparing policy briefs and presentations; assembling, cleaning, and analyzing large datasets; conducting literature reviews and synthesizing academic, policy, and regulatory material; reading and extracting information from foreign-language sources, including regulatory filings, government reports, and policy documents; and helping manage project timelines. The successful candidate will receive close faculty mentorship and interact with policymakers, regulators, and other stakeholders.

Applicants should hold a master's degree or complete such training by September 1, 2027. This position is immediate start and has the possibility of being hybrid or part-time for motivated candidates. Visa sponsorship in the US may be available for international applicants.

Required Qualifications

- Professional working fluency in German, Japanese, or another European language, in addition to English.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working at or with an international organization or a national health agency or ministry
- Familiarity with pharmaceutical markets, health technology assessment, drug pricing and reimbursement, trade policy, or medical product regulation
- Experience with statistical software (e.g., Stata, R) and preparing and analyzing large datasets

To Apply

Submit the following materials via email by 11:59pm ET on October 15, 2026:

- A **cover letter** describing your past work, research interests, and career goals
- A **CV**
- A **writing sample** (e.g., a first-authored research paper, a thesis chapter, or excerpt from course assignment)

Select candidates will be contacted for interviews. Questions? Contact Dr. Thomas Hwang (tjhwang@bwh.harvard.edu).

Mass General Brigham and Harvard Medical School are Equal Opportunity Employers. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, military service, genetic information, and/or other status protected under law. Applications from groups underrepresented in medicine, law, policy, and health services research are strongly encouraged.