



## Student Loan Law Initiative

### Call for Proposals: SLLI Emerging Scholars Program

## About the Emerging Scholars Program

The University of California Student Loan Law Initiative (SLLI) Emerging Scholars Program seeks to support and elevate the research of junior scholars working on issues related to student loan debt and the student debt crisis. SLLI is a partnership between the University of California and the Student Borrower Protection Center (SBPC) to build a body of rigorous academic work around the future of student loans. SLLI fosters the highest quality academic research, provides grants for research, and builds the capacity of student loan experts to shape the future of this marketplace. Leveraging the resources and networks of SLLI and SBPC, the Emerging Scholars Program aims to help lay the foundation for the next generation of student debt researchers across disciplines and to produce high-quality, actionable research on the education financing market.

SLLI Emerging Scholars will enjoy unique access to student loan policy experts at SLLI, the SBPC, and beyond. In addition, SLLI Emerging Scholars will have the chance as desired to access proprietary datasets managed by the California Policy Lab and created through a partnership between SLLI, the SBPC, and the California Policy Lab, including the [The University of California Consumer Credit Panel \(UC-CCP\)](#), a proprietary longitudinal dataset of anonymized consumer credit information from one of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies.

The UC-CCP contains tradeline information for approximately 40 million consumers beginning in 2004 through the present. This includes a nationally representative 2 percent sample of U.S. adult consumers with credit records and a 100 percent sample of consumers residing in California. More information on working with credit panel data is [available here](#).

## Request for Research Proposals

SLLI is launching a new round of requests for research proposals covering the most pressing issues related to the student debt crisis. SLLI Emerging Scholars will be provided access to proprietary data, and be expected to produce the following over the course of 1-2 academic years:

- At least one academic paper that can be submitted to a journal and/or used on the academic job market;

- At least one presentation of the academic paper organized by us; and
- Periodic blog posts, issue briefs, commentary, or memoranda intended for a public audience and/or policymakers regarding student loan debt, as determined in collaboration with SLLI staff.

SLLI Emerging Scholars need not be quantitative empiricists, and may instead work in fields such as legal research. However, **they must be in, or have recently graduated from,** a graduate program such as a JD or PhD program.

SLLI Emerging Scholars will be expected to commit around 5 hours per week to this work for up to 2 years.

## Application Process and Deadlines

SLLI Emerging Scholars will be expected to design and propose their own research project, and to execute on that project independently with periodic oversight.

To be considered for this program, applicants should submit:

- A detailed (2-3 page) proposed research plan, which should include a specific research question, datasets and variables you plan to examine (if applicable), and a description of how this research project contributes to larger scholarship or policy conversations on student loan debt. For those who intend to use the UC-CCP for their project, more information can be found about the credit panel data [at this link](#) (and [here](#)).
- An up-to-date CV or resume.
- Any additional details related to educational and research background.

All applications should be submitted by **January 15th** to [emergingscholars@protectborrowers.org](mailto:emergingscholars@protectborrowers.org).

*Applications from persons of color, LGBTQI persons, women, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged.*

We will be accepting applications for SBPC Emerging Scholars through **January 15, 2025**, and expect to make final determinations by **mid-February, 2025**. For questions or more information, please contact [emergingscholars@protectborrowers.org](mailto:emergingscholars@protectborrowers.org).