

Posted

April 2026

Due

Rolling, posted until filled. Priority deadline April 15

Duration

Part time
(8 hours/week)

Location

Brooklyn, New York/
Remote (hybrid)

Pay Rate

\$24 per hour

Pratt Center seeks a first-year graduate student assistant to support a new Participatory Action Research project focusing on how clean energy retrofits impact low to moderate income homeowners and tenants. Participatory Action Research (PR) is a collaborative approach where directly impacted communities actively participate in defining, conducting and using research to address their own issues and advance solutions.

This project: "Participatory Research on Energy Transition in Everyday Life" will build upon our long-standing work and deep community partnerships to study vital aspects of energy transition in the everyday lives of low and moderate income (LMI) residents of Brooklyn, NYC neighborhoods. The study will engage local residents who have participated in EnergyFit – a Pratt Center-led project to provide energy efficiency retrofits, electrification, repairs, and counseling to low- and moderate-income owners of 1- to 4-family homes in Brooklyn, NY. This project will collaborate with them as co-creators of knowledge and build their capacity (through deep training and hands-on experience) to address energy justice issues and advocate for community priorities that increase access to energy transition.

This position is open to students from Pratt Institute. This fellow will work with Pratt Center's Director of Climate Initiatives and our Planner for Climate Initiatives along with Professor Caitlin Cahill to support outreach, recruitment, education and training of research participants, data collection and analyses, and contribute to written reports and presentations in support of this project.

The graduate assistant will work 30 hours per month/8 hours per week under the supervision of a staff member. The work schedule aligns with Pratt Institute's academic calendar; the fellow will start work at the end of the Spring semester (likely late April or May) and continue over Summer Break. They will also work the full academic year of 2026-27. *Applicants should be enrolled in at least six credits of coursework during the Spring 2026, Fall 2026, and Spring 2027 semesters.*

Responsibilities

- × Support outreach, recruitment, education and training of research participants
- × Help plan and facilitate and take notes for meetings with research partners
- × Support development of research tools and instruments such as surveys, interview and focus group guides
- × Support collection of data in the field and training of research participants in data collection
- × Support data analysis and writing of reports and presentations

Skills and Interests

- × Candidates should have an interest and experience in sustainability, energy efficiency, affordable housing, decarbonization strategies, and/or other climate action.
- × Candidates should be committed to the tenets of energy and environmental justice and focusing on supporting low-income communities in accessing the benefits of clean energy.
- × Experience with data analysis using Microsoft Excel. Other data analysis and visualization skills and experience with programs like R, GIS, database management software are a plus.
- × Organized, able to self-manage and turn around work in a timely manner.
- × Strong written and verbal communication skills are required.
- × Spanish or Bangla language skills are a plus.
- × Previous field research experience is a plus.

To Apply

This is a hybrid in-person and remote position and will require some work in the field conducting research. The project start date is to be determined depending on when funding is finalized, but likely in May 2026. We are looking for a student who can work over the summer semester and for the full academic year of 2026-2027. The fellow will be paid \$24 per hour through Student Employment.

Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to k.mickamaloy@pratt.edu with the subject line: PAR Graduate Assistant

About Pratt Center for Community Development

Founded in 1963, the Pratt Center for Community Development works for a more just, equitable, and sustainable city for all New Yorkers. As part of Pratt Institute, we leverage professional skills including participatory planning, community organizing, and public policy advocacy to support community-based organizations in their efforts to challenge systemic inequities and advance sustainable development.

We are an equal opportunity employer and do not discriminate in hiring or employment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or belief, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, marital or domestic partnership status, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity or expression, age, disability, military or veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law. Pratt Institute recognizes and values the benefits of a diverse workforce.

