

Chewei Liu

AY 2017-18 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

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5th year Graduate Student, RA



I have been working as a Research Assistant for Professor Ritu Agarwal, Professor Sunil Mithas, and Professor Gordon Gao since 2014. We have conducted numerous projects during this time, several of which have been accepted at premier conferences (e.g. ICIS, WISE, or CIST) or are under review at prestigious journals. Being a Research Assistant has been one of my most rewarding experience as a Ph.D. student at the Smith School. Throughout the years, I received training on data collection, analysis of secondary survey data, the design and implementation of lab experiments, and how to conduct field experiments.

Simultaneously working on multiple projects is not an easy task. I have learned how to prioritize the tasks and deliver high-quality work on time. Each project not only helped me acquire skills that I lacked but also sharpened my thinking of research questions. I enjoy the “learning by doing” process while serving as an RA. Were it not for the RA’s tasks, my econometric skills would get rusty, but what I cherish the most about my RA experience is the process of learning to ask the right research questions. My mentors always pushed me to the limit by asking what is unique in the research, how do we contribute to the literature, and do we add new insights to previous findings. The sometimes challenging experience in the beginning has eventually turned into fertilizer that has nurtured me as an independent researcher.