

Jacob Tasto

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Education

University of Washington

PhD Student in Economics

Fields: Development Economics, Econometrics

Research Interests: Internal Migration, Applied Econometrics, Spatial Economics

Seattle, WA

Expected: June 2028

University of Washington

MA in Economics

Seattle, WA

June 2025

University of Maryland

BS in Economics with a Minor in Business Analytics

College Park, MD

May 2019

Honors/Awards: Magna Cum Laude
National Merit Scholar
University Honors Citation
President's Scholarship

Study Abroad: Bilbao, Spain: International Business & Spanish, Spring 2019
Southeast Asia: Cultural Immersion, Winter 2018
United Arab Emirates & Hong Kong: Cultural Immersion, Winter 2017

Research Experience

University of Washington

Research Assistant, Alan Griffith

Seattle, WA

November 2024 – September 2025

- Collected campaign finance and election data from across Washington and California, compiled and cleaned data in Stata, and applied panel methods (TWFE, SDID, etc.) for a paper assessing the effects of Seattle's Democracy Vouchers program

Teaching Experience

University of Washington

Teaching Assistant

Seattle, WA

September 2023 – Present

- Econ 300 – Intermediate Microeconomics
- Econ 201 – Introduction to Macroeconomics
- Econ 200 – Introduction to Microeconomics

Working Papers

Democracy Vouchers in the Medium Term (with Alan Griffith)

Research Works in Progress

(When) Are There Returns to Rural-Urban Migration? Reconciling RCT & Observational Data

Awards, Grants, & Fellowship

Jeff & Perri Roe Fellowship (2026)

Languages

R, Stata, MatLab, SQL, LaTeX

Professional Experience

Assure Analytics

Phoenix, AZ

Research Analyst

September 2021 – November 2022

- Structured datasets and conducted data analysis to publish findings on startup and venture capital investing

DifferentFunds

Washington, DC

Venture Market Analyst

November 2019 – September 2021

- Drafted and published original research reports and articles on the venture capital market (cited by Wall Street Journal, Venture Capital Journal, The Information, Sifted, and others)
- Structured and maintained database to track all fundraising activity by U.S. venture capital firms