

KARA JONES

1014 Greene Street, Columbia SC, 29208 | +1-770-733-3709
Kara.Jones@grad.moore.sc.edu | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joneskara/>

EDUCATION

University of South Carolina | *Darla Moore School of Business* May 2026 (Expected)

PhD in Economics

Principal Research Interests: Economic development, tax policy, tourism, applied microeconomics

Bachelors in International Business and Economics

May 2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant | *USC Economics Department* Aug 2021 – Present

- Apply econometric methods to US Bureau of Labor Statistics data to estimate casual effects of business investment
- Gather, clean, and assess US Census Bureau data using Python for business entrepreneurship research
- Research and develop a proposal and grant application for U.S. Census Bureau data access to analyze long-term impact of economic incentives
- Awarded grant from **Smith Richardson Foundation, 2022** – \$250K for economic development research

Teaching Assistant | *USC Economics Department* Aug 2021 – Present

- Serve as Teaching Assistant for graduate and undergrad – Microeconomics & Macroeconomics
- Grade and hosted office hours for Intro to Microeconomics, Intro to Macroeconomics, and Applied Microeconomics

Senior Consultant – Change Management & Learning | *IBM Consulting* Aug 2019 – Jul 2022

- Developed and executed change management strategies to secure stakeholder support for new initiatives and minimize business disruption as client transitioned to new technologies.
- Led a team of 6 analysts, provided timely feedback, conducted continuous improvement analysis, and presented project updates to client and program management.
- Analyzed and reported on the efficacy of engagement and training strategies by conducting surveys and interviews.
- Spearheaded the Sales Simulation for internal practice development and developed recommendations for future events by analyzing program data, feedback, and improvement in employees' sales skills.
- Led 20 IBM P-TECH interns in consulting activities and provided guidance, support, and direction in researching and compiling a compelling business case to present to IBM leadership.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant | *Escola Andorrana* Sep 2018 – Jun 2019

- Improved English proficiency among university staff and 10 classes of vocational students by designing and delivering English courses.

PAPERS & CONFERENCES

- 2022 - Southeastern Annual Economics Conference
 - Presented: Troidl, Alex and **Kara Jones**. “The Kia Effect: Impact of FDI in Rural America.”
- 2022 - Office of Tax Analysis Research Conference
- 2022 - Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop

AWARDS & GRANTS

- **Smith Richardson Foundation, 2022** – \$250K grant to fund economic development research using U.S. Census Bureau restricted data
- **University of South Carolina Graduate School Travel Grant, 2022**
- **U.S. Fulbright Grantee: Andorra, 2018** – English Teaching Assistantship
- **Dean’s Award, 2018**
- **SC Honors College Outstanding Intern, 2016**

SKILLS

- *Software:* Python, Stata
 - Advanced Excel, Word, and PowerPoint skills with full proficiency in Microsoft Suite
- *Foreign Language Skills:* fluent in French