About the RAND Corporation

RAND is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decisionmaking through research and analysis.

How did RAND get started?
Project RAND began after World War II as a special initiative of the Douglas Aircraft Company of Santa Monica, California. The purpose was to continue in peacetime the advances in knowledge that civilian research scientists had been recruited to develop during the war. Early research was conducted for only one client—the U.S. Army Air Forces—and focused exclusively on U.S. national security. In 1948, Project RAND separated from Douglas Aircraft and became the RAND Corporation, an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting scientific, educational, and charitable purposes for the public welfare. RAND diversified its research focus and for more than six decades has used scientific analysis to help individuals, families, and communities throughout the world be safer, healthier, and more prosperous.

Where are RAND’s offices?
The RAND Corporation is a global organization with offices throughout the world. U.S. locations include Santa Monica, California, the home of its headquarters campus and the Pardee RAND Graduate School; Arlington, Virginia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Boston, Massachusetts; and New Orleans, Louisiana. RAND Europe is located in Cambridge, UK, and Brussels, Belgium. Our newest office is in Canberra, Australia.

Research at RAND

What are RAND’s areas of expertise?
RAND’s research agenda reflects our commitment to sound public- and private-sector approaches to the critical challenges facing the world. The following areas represent our recent work: Children and Families • Education and the Arts • Energy and Environment • Health and Health Care • Infrastructure and Transportation • International Affairs • Law and Business • National Security • Population and Aging • Public Safety • Science and Technology • Terrorism and Homeland Security.

Who is on the RAND research staff?
RAND researchers are creative, independent thinkers with intellectual curiosity and a strong interest in making a difference in the world through public policy research. The ~850 members of RAND’s research staff represent nearly every academic field and profession, from engineering and behavioral sciences to medicine and economics. About half of them hold Ph.D.’s, and most others hold M.A.’s, M.D.’s, or J.D.’s. Our research staff is a diverse group, spanning different ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds. They share a commitment to multidisciplinary collaboration that has been RAND’s hallmark from its earliest days.
What determines the research agenda?
RAND is committed to addressing issues at the top of the policy agenda. Each research unit sets a general research agenda, and researchers also propose new projects and secure funding for new work within the scope of those agendas and RAND’s mission.

Who funds RAND research?
Our research is supported by a global clientele that includes government agencies, foundations, and private-sector firms. Additionally, generous philanthropic contributions, combined with earnings from RAND’s endowment, make possible RAND’s Investment in People and Ideas program, which supports innovative research on issues crucial to the policy debate but that reach beyond the boundaries of traditional client funding.

Research Career Paths

What research opportunities does RAND offer?
RAND hires outstanding individuals for a wide array of research and research support roles, including full-time researchers, research assistants, graduate student summer associates, research communications analysts, project associates, and computer programmers.

What is the expected career path of a RAND researcher?
RAND research staff typically progress through three levels: associate, full, and senior. An early-career researcher will enter RAND at the associate level and work as a member of a project team. As a full researcher, the individual will lead project teams and establish expertise through a research portfolio. A senior researcher is a recognized expert in a field and a skilled project leader. Researchers select or develop projects for their work portfolio and can work across a variety of policy areas on both domestic and international projects. Researchers can also pursue management roles, including research program manager, research unit director, quality assurance manager, and personnel manager. Staff members in research support roles can also pursue advancement through development of their capabilities and expertise. Researchers can also teach as faculty members at the Pardee RAND Graduate School (Pardee RAND) located in Santa Monica, California. Pardee RAND is the largest public policy Ph.D program in the United States.

Working at RAND

What is the work environment like?
Researchers enjoy a flexible, team-oriented work environment in which they choose projects related to their areas of expertise and interest. Although our work is rigorous and challenging, the RAND culture also includes fun. RAND offers a wide array of clubs and activities from yoga and golf to calligraphy and tai chi. And each of our U.S. offices is close to entertainment, cultural, and shopping districts, making it easy to enjoy life beyond work.

What are the compensation and benefits like?
Our compensation is competitive with other nonprofit research organizations such as universities, government organizations, and think tanks. We also offer a comprehensive benefit package that includes full medical and retirement benefits and four weeks vacation annually to all regular exempt employees. To learn more about RAND benefits, visit www.rand.org/jobs/benefits.html.

How can I learn more?
Visit our website at www.rand.org. Here, you can learn more about our latest research, access RAND reports, and read about RAND news and events.

How do I apply?
Please visit our employment page at www.rand.org/jobs. We accept applications only through this site. Here, you will be able to search for current opportunities related to your interests and learn more about specific qualifications. You will also find information about internships and fellowships. Click Find a Job to search for open positions, and follow the instructions under How to Apply. You will be asked to submit a CV, cover letter, and writing samples through our online form. We look forward to hearing from you!
The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and
decisionmaking through research and analysis.

This electronic document was made available from www.rand.org as a public service
of the RAND Corporation.

Support RAND

Browse Reports & Bookstore
Make a charitable contribution

For More Information

Visit RAND at www.rand.org
Explore the RAND Corporation
View document details

Corporate Publications

This product is part of the RAND Corporation corporate publication series. Corporate publications
describe or promote RAND divisions and programs, summarize research results, or announce upcoming
events.

Limited Electronic Distribution Rights

This document and trademark(s) contained herein are protected by law as indicated in a notice appearing
later in this work. This electronic representation of RAND intellectual property is provided for non-
commercial use only. Unauthorized posting of RAND electronic documents to a non-RAND website
is prohibited. RAND electronic documents are protected under copyright law. Permission is required
from RAND to reproduce, or reuse in another form, any of our research documents for commercial use.
For information on reprint and linking permissions, please see RAND Permissions.