

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT—BETTER BUYING INSTITUTE

SENIOR MANAGER OF RESEARCH

[Better Buying Institute](#) (BBI) was launched in 2019 to promote the improvement of buyer purchasing practices, supply chain management, worker conditions, and the natural environment. A young organization working to transform the way global supply chains work, BBI's primary activities include: (i) independent research, (ii) the operation and management of a ratings and evaluation platform on which suppliers provide information about their buyer customers relating to various aspects of purchasing practices and (iii) projects and training on supply chain industry practices to support innovation and promote change. Our work started with the apparel, footwear, and household textiles industries where we are already beginning to see positive changes. We have been organically expanding into the broader consumer goods sector and plan to make more intentional progress with new industries in that sector soon.

Better Buying Institute reimagines supply chain sustainability, leveraging data to strengthen supplier-buyer relationships and improve purchasing practices that drive profitability while protecting workers and the environment. We focus on the day-to-day business activities (purchasing practices) used by retailers and brands to bring products to market. While these purchasing practices have been known to put pressure on supply chains, their negative impacts on suppliers, workplace conditions, worker wages, and environmental performance have increased and become highly visible during the Coronavirus pandemic crisis with brand and retailer purchasing practices often determining the viability of supplier businesses and whether or not workers in their factories go hungry.

Better Buying Institute is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization incorporated in Delaware in the United States and is the outgrowth of a research project started in 2015 and headed by Dr. Marsha Dickson, a distinguished academic scholar.

About the Opportunity

Better Buying Institute is seeking a **Senior Manager of Research** who will use their analytical skills and their passion for supply chain sustainability to carry out Better Buying's research. The Senior Manager will work under the direction of the President in creating and refining data collection instruments, communicating with suppliers located around the world to manage data collection, analyzing and interpreting complex quantitative and qualitative data using SPSS and NVIVO software, using advanced statistical testing techniques, and contributing to reports for various industry audiences. The Senior Manager will prioritize the integrity of Better Buying's data and use their exemplary eye for detail and organizational skills to manage all ongoing research projects.

Major Roles and Responsibilities

Instrument Development. Create and refine quantitative and qualitative data collection instruments to gather a comprehensive understanding of brands' and retailers' purchasing practices and their impact on buyer-supplier business relationships around the globe. Set up perceptual surveys and micro-surveys that capture the ongoing efforts of brands and retailers to improve their practices. Create interview schedules for collection of qualitative data.

Supplier Engagement and Data Collection. Lead global supplier outreach during annual ratings cycles

and other off-cycle data collection, including contacting suppliers to participate in surveys and other research activities, ensuring the data received are high quality and valid, maintaining anonymity of all participants and confidentiality of raw data to protect the integrity of BBI's work. Manage a team of global ambassadors and a Research Intern to support and encourage suppliers to participate. Provide assistance to suppliers as needed to navigate any technical issues experienced while submitting ratings. Contribute to development of supporting and promotional materials such as informational videos and guidance documents. Conduct focus groups and interviews with suppliers from around the world on an as-needed basis.

Data Analysis. Use statistical techniques to analyze quantitative data as well as qualitative data using SPSS and NVIVO software, respectively. Conduct and interpret the results of advanced statistical tests like correlation tests, t-tests, analysis of variances, regressions, reliability analysis, factor analysis, thematic analysis and other advanced techniques. Exercise judgment to select and segregate data appropriately.

Research Reporting. Lead generation of company reports. Contribute to industry benchmark and other types of reporting by working independently to aggregate and identify appropriate data to report.

Platform Management. Lead work with the platform administrator during new developmental and data collection phases. Refine the ratings platform by maintaining a record of improvements as needed to improve functionality. Identify and coordinate with the platform administrator to test changes and resolve technical errors.

General. Maintain a comprehensive record of all research procedures. Support other research projects or initiatives as assigned by the President.

Qualifications should include:

The ideal candidate for Senior Manager of Research is **passionate about Better Buying's mission**. In addition has:

- A research-based Master's degree in a field relevant to global supply chains, sustainability, or business administration
- A minimum of three years of experience collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data using advanced statistical software, including SPSS and NVIVO.
- Knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods gained through graduate coursework in research methods and statistics, and practical experience conducting original research.
- Experience effectively managing others, including setting and working with teams to achieve annual targets, planning work allocation, and training and development to ensure efficient and timely workflow.
- Able to work quickly and accurately under tight deadlines with strong organizational skills and attention to detail. In addition, able to work proactively and independently from a remote location.
- Fluency in English, both oral and written.
- High ethical standards and personal integrity
- Software experience: SPSS, NVIVO, Alchemer or Qualtrics

In addition, the following skills and experiences are preferred:

- Experience in responsible purchasing, corporate social responsibility, and/or sustainable supply chains with foundational knowledge of buyer-supplier relationships
- Knowledge of the apparel industry and its supply chain
- Skill in writing research reports for an industry audience
- Software experience: Power BI

How to Apply

Applicants should send the following to apply@betterbuying.org and include “Senior Manager of Research” in the subject line of the email message:

- A cover letter and CV
- Summary of all research methods, statistics, and data analysis coursework completed
- Sample work that demonstrates experience carrying out research (research report, dissertations etc.)

Better Buying Institute is an equal employment opportunity employer and considers all applicants for employment regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.