

PPHC Lab:

Volunteer Research Assistant & Research Intern for Course Credit (PSYC3900, 4500, 4510)

Description

Overview: In the Pediatric Pain, Health, and Communication (PPHC) Lab we conduct research into child health and familial influences in the area of pediatric pain and fear. Students who would like to become involved in the lab can do so a) on a volunteer basis, b) as an intern for course credit (PSYC3900, 4500 or 4510). All interested students go through a standard application process (forms and dates available on website). The volunteer RA or intern will provide research support to Dr. Meghan McMurtry, faculty member of the Department of Psychology and other members of the PPHC lab.

Volunteer/Intern Requirements:

- Be able to work independently and as part of a team.
- Possess strong communication and writing skills.
- Have proficient computer skills.
- Possess some familiarity with library resources and searching for literature.
- Demonstrate professional behaviour including but not limited to: respect for confidentiality, research ethics, punctuality as well as professionalism in interactions with other members of the lab, the department, participants, and the broader public.
- Meet time requirement of a minimum of:
 - **8 hours per week for a volunteer** (4 hours of that must be spent working in the lab itself). Have some flexibility in availability as weekends and/or evenings may be required (e.g., running participants).
 - **10-12 hours per week for a research intern for course credit** (4 hours of that must be spent working in the lab itself). Have some flexibility in availability as weekends and/or evenings may be required (e.g., running participants).

Roles and Responsibilities (spanning project assistance, data collection and management, writing, and organization):

- Conduct computerized literature searches, collect, review articles. Provide summaries to Dr. McMurtry or other supervisor and students (e.g., honours thesis students, graduate students) as required.
- Photocopy and format documents including research grant proposals, letters of intent, and applications for ethical review.
- Maintain confidentiality of participant, employee, and lab information.
- Perform other related duties as required (e.g., data entry, data coding, transcription, participant recruitment and data collection).
- Attend brief regular meetings with Dr. McMurtry on an individual basis and/or team meetings (as applicable).

Opportunities for Growth and Development (note: not all opportunities will be available within a given position):

- Strengthen experience and skills in literature searches.
- Strengthen and gain experience summarizing literature including critically evaluating literature.
- Gain experience in key research tasks including data entry, coding, transcription, and implementing research protocols in running participants.
- Opportunity for a “behind the scenes” view of research lab.
- Enhance your resume with valuable research experience.

What You Can Expect in Return:

- Regular meetings with Dr. McMurtry (e.g., every 2 weeks) and/or other PPHC lab members (e.g., team meetings every 2 weeks) or supervisors (e.g., graduate students, honours students).
- Invitations to complete tasks that are appropriate to your skill level to promote your growing competence and further your experience.
- Structured evaluation and feedback.
- Provision of a reference letter on your behalf commensurate with your service (*must be involved in the lab for at least one semester prior to provision of a reference letter).
- Provision of information and resources about the profession of psychology, the practice of pediatric psychology, research, and teaching.

