

Undergraduate Research Assistant Information & Application

LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE LAB

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Department of Psychology

Thank you for your interest in being an undergraduate research assistant in the *Language and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab (LCNL)*. This lab conducts a variety of types of studies related to language comprehension, language production, and language learning. This form provides information about the lab and gives you an opportunity to share information about yourself.

ABOUT THE LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE LAB

We are a research group studying how people learn and use language. The lab is directed by two faculty members in the Department of Psychology, Profs. Mark Seidenberg and Maryellen MacDonald. There are currently five PhD students in the lab, and many research projects are conducted with colleagues at various locations in the U.S. and Europe. Though we are based in the Department of Psychology, our research spans psychology, neuroscience, and linguistics.

Undergraduate research assistants who work in our labs take on a variety of tasks, depending on their interests and skills as well as the lab's current needs. Our research involves both conducting experiments and developing computational models of human performance. Depending on the individual's skills and interests, undergraduate research assistants can do any combination of the following: develop language materials for experiments, set up experiments on computers, schedule subjects for experiments, test subjects in experiments, organize and backup data on computers, enter data into computer records, transcribe speech from experiments, help to maintain the computer network, and develop as well as analyze computer simulations of reading and language processes.

Some undergraduates are assigned to work directly with a particular graduate student mentor and work closely with that graduate student along with one professor on a specific project. Other RAs assist in several different projects conducted by various members of the research group. All research assistants are expected to attend a weekly lab meeting in which we discuss our own and other interesting research.

Lab Meetings: Weekly meetings are 4:00-5:15pm every Monday. Our preference is that all lab members attend lab meetings, though we occasionally accept RAs with a conflict (full or partial).

REQUIRED INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Please complete the fillable PDF provided and return it as an attachment to lcnlabspace@gmail.com. Please also attach your current Student Record (unofficial transcript), if you have one. Finally, if you have a resume and/ or cover letter that you'd like to attach, please do so when you submit the application.

Given that RAs take on a variety of responsibilities depending on the projects being conducted in the lab, we ask a broad set of questions in the application. Do not worry if you don't have every type of experience we ask about; we do not expect all applicants to possess every related skill or background relevant to our research.

What will happen next? We'll review applications and invite select applicants to interview with current lab members. We will follow up accordingly based on the current timeline for hiring new lab members. If you have any questions about your application, direct correspondence to: lcnlabspace@gmail.com.

Personal Information

NAME:

MAJOR & MINOR (if any):

CLASS (e.g., *sophomore*):

GPA:

Academic & Professional Background

Have you taken any statistics or research methods courses? (If so, please provide details)

Have you taken any classes that have provided training and/ or experience analyzing language (e.g., linguistics, communicative sciences and disorders, phonetics, etc.)? Please describe.

Do you speak any languages fluently other than English?

Are you interested in working in the lab for course credit? (We currently have only for-credit positions available.)

Approximately how many hours per week would you plan to work in the lab this semester?

Please provide tentative weekly time slots that you would be available for your position this coming semester. (e.g., Mondays from 12-3pm, etc.)

Do you have a conflict (full or partial) with our weekly lab meeting time (Mondays, 4-5:15pm)? If so, please explain the circumstances.

If you were to join the lab, how many semesters would you likely be able to commit to being a member of our research team?

Other than course credit, what would you like to get out of working at LCNL?

Please describe your previous lab research experience (include approximate dates, supervisor, general duties).

Please describe your computer experience. Please include any relevant information such as types of computers used, operating systems, software (like MS Excel), programs and programming languages you're familiar with (e.g. R, SPSS, etc.), and/ or any work experience you have had programming or using computers extensively.

Please describe other relevant work or volunteer experience. Please include approximate dates, supervisor, general duties).

If you have worked or volunteered at UW, please provide the name and email address of your supervisor or someone who would be able to comment on your previous experience.

Use this space for any additional information that you would like to provide relevant to the previous questions. (Note that you may also provide a cover letter and/ or resume to supplement your application)

Some of our current projects are related to the following topics. If you are specifically interested in any of these topics, please indicate below. (Note that it's okay to leave this section blank.)

- Accents and dialects
- Computational modeling
- Education
- Language comprehension
- Language production
- Language learning
- Memory
- Phonology and phonetics
- Reading
- Syntax

End