



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED Autumn 2019

The School of Communication both welcomes and encourages undergraduate student involvement in the research programs of faculty and graduate students by serving as undergraduate research assistants. Research assistants play a vital role in the research of any university, by helping with data collection and analysis, computer programming, library research, and writing of research reports for presentation and conferences and for publication. Undergraduates in the social sciences with research experience (especially in the form of an undergraduate thesis) and who meet other entry requirements are often highly sought out by graduate schools, including the graduate program in the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. Furthermore, people with research skills are also sought out in industry and the corporate world. Thus, serving as a research assistant can give you a competitive advantage in your quest for furthering your education in the social sciences or obtaining employment upon graduation. **If you need a letter of recommendation from a faculty member for graduate school or a job, you will get a much stronger letter if you work in a faculty member's research group.** Because there is no such thing as too much experience, we especially encourage students to get involved early in their education, *at least* a year before graduation. It sounds a lot better for a faculty member to say that that you worked in their lab for two, three, or even four years than only a semester.

The School of Communication is currently recruiting undergraduate research assistants for ongoing research projects described below. You may earn 'independent study' course credit by working on these projects or get involved on a voluntary basis—details are to be discussed with the faculty/project contacts. **If you see a project description that interests you, please contact the faculty member directly (unless otherwise indicated in project description).** Most projects fill on a first-come basis until full.

The application deadline for all positions is
August 23, 2019.

Autumn 2019 School of Communication Projects

Project Title: Perception of gun policy lab study

Faculty supervisor: Graham Dixon

Email: Dixon.716@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1

Project location: Journalism 233-1

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours

Preferred qualifications: upper classman (Junior or Senior)

Project description: The goal of this study is to examine under what conditions public consensus about gun policies influence public actions. Specifically, we explore whether public opinion information detailing gun owners' support for key gun policies can influence people's public expression of support for these policies. We also examine whether public opinion information is most effective when people perceive gun policy can be changed.

Project Title: Scientific Press Release Study

Faculty supervisor: Graham Dixon

Email: dixon.716@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 2

Project Location: Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours

Preferred qualifications: Students interested in science communication research

Project description: This project involves content analyzing scientific press releases and determining how their content influences press/social media coverage.

Project Title: User Testing

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3-6

Project Location: Journalism Building and possibly off-campus

Minimum commitment per week: 6+ hrs. (2-3 credits)

Preferred qualifications: Good interpersonal skills, timely & reliable, blocks of daytime availability (at least 3 continuous hours in between 9 and 5). Students with an interest in human-computer interaction, user testing, educational technology, or science communication are strongly encouraged to apply.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with user testing of platforms for teaching people scientific principles. You will interact with study participants and get firsthand experience with various user testing methods. You will develop several research skills that are useful for careers in UX/UR/HCI, user experience, and market research more broadly.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Project Title: Video Coding User Experiences

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3-6

Project Location: Meetings in Journalism Bldg.; most work can be accomplished at home

Minimum commitment per week: 6+ hrs (2-3 credits)

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; ability to self-manage, including making steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision and meeting deadlines. Students with an interest in human-computer interaction, user testing, educational technology, or science communication are strongly encouraged to apply.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with coding videos of people interacting with a web-based science app. You will develop coding and analysis skills that are useful for careers in UX/UR/HCI, user experience, and market research more broadly.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Project Title: Channel Study

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 2-3

Project Location: Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hrs.

Preferred qualifications: Good interpersonal skills, timely & reliable, blocks of daytime availability (at least 3 continuous hours in between 9 and 5)

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help run an experiment about interpersonal encounters through different media. You will interact with study participants and learn about experimental and survey-based research.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <http://goo.gl/forms/YMwyjEVVdK>

Project Title: Graphics Assistant

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 1-2

Project Location: A few meetings at Derby Hall; most work done on your own

Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; strong organizational skills; ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision. Strong skills and experience working with Photoshop or other graphics programs is required. Experience creating infographics or other forms of science communication is a plus.

Project description: This position will entail creating graphics for various uses. You may also be asked to collect images or graphics from online sources. We get many applicants for this position; we are looking for creative individuals who understand the principles of good design.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>
You will also be asked to submit samples of your work (info in application).

Project Title: True Crime Research

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 1-2

Project Location: Derby Hall & on your own

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hrs.

Preferred qualifications: We are looking for persistent individuals to hunt down information on the internet and social media about true crime and true crime podcasts. You must have top notch internet digging skills, and, importantly, the persistence and passion to keep looking. IMPORTANT: This project may involve exposure to true crime media which may be perceived as graphic, traumatizing, or offensive. These crimes may include homicide, sexual assault, and crimes against children. It is not suitable for everyone, so please consider this before you apply.

Project description: We are seeking people who will hunt down information about true crime podcasts and podcasters through various online channels. You may also be asked to research and collect information on violent crimes, missing persons, cold cases (i.e., older unsolved crimes), etc. This job may require you to encounter sensitive/traumatizing information about crime or potentially offensive perspectives on criminal acts. *Please do not apply for this position if that is a concern.* If you have questions, please feel free to email Dr. Jesse Fox at fox.775@osu.edu before applying.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Project Title: Online Research Manager

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Dr. Jesse Fox

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): fox.775@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 1

Project Location: Occasional meetings in Journalism Bldg.; most work can be accomplished at home

Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hrs (1-2 credits)

Preferred qualifications: Excellent organizational and written communication skills are required for this position. Candidates must also possess strong online research skills and the ability to self-manage, including making steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision and meeting deadlines. You must have consistent access to email, as part of this position will entail timely responses.

Project description: We are seeking a research assistant to help us identify suitable venues for project recruitment and data collection. You will be responsible for writing professional emails and online posts. You may also engage in some data coding.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/f4z1AbBOAxTePhch1>

Project Title: Video game character race and aggression

Faculty supervisor: Lanier Holt, Ph.D.

Contact information: 614-292-7438

Email: holt.341@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 1

Project location: Journalism Building and/or Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: To earn COMM 4998 credit, research assistants work 3 hours per credit per week (for 16 weeks). Thus, the total number of hours is 48 for one credit, 96 for two credits, etc. Preference will be given to those who can work more credits and who can commit to more than one semester of work.

Preferred qualifications: Research assistants will interact with participants as experimenters, so strong social and people skills are very important. Other critical skills include conscientiousness, paying close attention to details, and reliability.

Project description: In this experiment, white participants will play a violent video game as a Muslim character, black character, or white character (randomly determined). After gameplay, they will be given the opportunity to aggress against a target who previously insulted them or against an innocent bystander. We predict that participants who play the violent game as a Muslim character will have the highest levels of displaced aggression (because Muslims are stereotypically viewed as terrorists or terrorist supporters, which target innocent bystanders), whereas participants who play the violent game

as a black character will have the highest levels of direct aggression (because black people are stereotypically viewed as aggressive).

Project Title: Development of Communication Competences: Social Skills; Argument Skills.

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan L. Kline

Contact information: kline.48@osu.edu

Email: kline.48@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 2-3

Project location: 3106 Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 1 credit- 3 hrs/wk

Preferred qualifications: None

Project description: This project has several facets: (a) reviews of research using social skill and argumentation measures, (b) the development of research proposals involving social skill and argumentation measures. Research assistants will be asked to engage in library research, engage in discussion and critique of current measures and help shape two research proposals.

Project Title: Growing Friendships; Growing Close Relationships

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Susan L. Kline

Contact information: kline.48@osu.edu

Email: kline.48@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought: 6-9

Project location: 3106 Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 1 credit- 3 hrs/wk

Preferred qualifications: None

Project description: This project has several facets: (a) coding particular television shows (i.e., Hallmark) for the kind of relational communication that is displayed as ideal, and (b) developing measures to test the presence of these types of communication in everyday relationships. Research assistants will be asked to engage in coding, library research, discussion, and then help develop self-report measures that will be used in upcoming research.

Project Title: Selective Media Exposure: What drives attention to online messages?

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick, Professor

Contact information: <https://u.osu.edu/knobloch-westerw.1/>

Email: Knobloch-westerwick.1@osu.edu

Total number of research assistants sought:

Project location: Journalism Building and/or Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: To earn COMM 4998 or 4193 credit or voluntary experience. 6-9 hours

Preferred qualifications: Research assistants with coursework and applied experience in JavaScript and data structures in Java; desirable: knowledge in HTML, CSS, MySQL, PHP, Ruby on Rails, Angular/Bootstrap. Developer tasks will be subject to good practices of software documentation and security. Students with 3.6 GPA or higher preferred.

Project description: This project has several facets: (a) Extend and maintain SERA application (Selective Exposure Research Application) that simulates mediated communication environments (e.g., news aggregators like GoogleNews, social media such as Facebook or Instagram) for the purpose of tracking what messages individuals select. (b) Overall purpose of research projects in which the platform will be utilized is to study the factors that lead individuals to consume or avoid messages, e.g. messages with a particular political leaning or that portray certain social groups positively/negatively. (c) The platform needs to log what messages an individual users clicks on and how much time is spent with messages. Total time individuals spent on browsing messages will be limited. (d) Platform must follow logic of particular experimental study (e.g., randomize the sequence in which certain messages are displayed, counterbalance how often messages of a certain type are displayed). (e) The application will likely be embedded in a commercial online software tool. Further, the platform should be adaptable for future study designs. (f) The position entails meetings to discuss platform requirements, as well as individual work on setting up, improving and testing the platform. After initial meetings, the work can be primarily be performed independently, with regular check-ins based on a progress timeline.

What should student do to be considered for this opportunity and what information should be provided? Via email; send resume including GPA, with programming/research experience information, brief interest statement, references if available