THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Communication

3033 Derby Hall
154 N. Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-8444 Phone
614-292-2055 Fax

comm.osu.edu

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED
Spring 2020

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
January 10, 2020.

Spring 2020 School of Communication Projects

Project title: Depictions of Careers in Children's Storybooks
Faculty supervisor: Dr. James Alex Bonus
Contact information: bonus.1@osu.edu
Email: bonus.1@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 3-4
Project location: Center of Science and Industry (COSI), 333 W Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215

Minimum commitment per week: 4 hours

Preferred qualifications: Experience and comfort working with children aged 4-9; reliable transportation to COSI

Project description: This study examines how parents discuss storybooks about science careers with their children. Research assistants would be responsible for conducting interviews with children and their parents at the Center of Science and Industry. Project tasks would include: (1) interfacing with the public as they explore COSI, (2) describing the basic features of the study to interested guests at COSI, (3) recruiting participants for the study, and (4) completing brief interviews with study participants. Research assistants would be expected to work a minimum of 4 consecutive hours at least one day per week on either weekdays (Wed, Thurs, or Fri) or weekends (Sat or Sun). Scheduling is flexible.

_____

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: 3-6
Project Location: Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 9 hrs. (3 credits)

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: 1-2
Project Location: Occasional meetings in Derby Hall; 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: Partner Communication
Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox
Contact Information: Kara Rader
Email: rader.175@osu.edu
Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4
Project Location: Occasional meetings in Derby Hall; most work can be accomplished at home

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hrs (1 credit)

Preferred qualifications: Excellent English language skills are required for this position, including a familiarity with colloquialisms and slang. Candidates must have 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 looking for help coding data regarding how romantic or sexual partners communication. This material may be sensitive or graphic, and content may be triggering to some individuals.

To apply for this position, please email Kara Rader at rader.175@osu.edu and a brief explanation about your qualifications for this position.

_____

Project title: Exploring Online Communication in Initial Interactions
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox
Contact information: Kathryn Coduto, 330-316-0780
Email: Kathryn Coduto, coduto.1@osu.edu; Jesse Fox, fox.775@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 12
Project location: Derby/Journalism Building, room(s) TBD

Minimum commitment per week: 4 hours (2 hours/day, 2 days/week)

Preferred qualifications: Typing ability: RAs must be able to type efficiently and conversationally with others. For availability, RAs will ideally be available for the same time slots MW or TR (for example, 10 am to noon on Mondays AND Wednesdays).

Project description: RAs are needed in the lab to chat with participants for a project investigating online communication in initial interactions. RAs will be trained in the kinds of conversations they will be having and will be supervised throughout these conversations. RAs are needed who can ideally be in the lab two days a week for a minimum of four hours and ideally six hours (split between two days).

_____

Project Title: Messages and school spirit
Faculty supervisor: Jesse Fox
Contact information: Michael Gilbert
Email: Gilbert.611@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 6
Project location: Journalism Building

Minimum commitment per week: 4-6 hours

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

Project description: The goal of this study is to examine how school spirit relates to behavior. Participants will take a short survey to assess school spirit, and afterwards complete several short tasks in the lab. The job of the RAS is to run participants through this study. RAs are expected to be punctual and reliable.

_____

Project Title: Preferences Study
Faculty supervisor: Lanier Holt, Ph.D.
Contact information: Golnoosh Behrouzian
Email: behrouzian.1@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 4
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: Participants will be asked to participate in a variety of tasks, including playing video games, writing essays, and taking surveys. Research Assistants will be responsible for explaining the research process to participants and recording participant data.

_____

Project title: The Bold Type
Faculty supervisor: Dr. Shelly Hovick
Contact information: Please contact Kara Rader for additional information or to apply.
Email: rader.175@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 3
Project location: Derby Hall

Minimum commitment per week: 3-6 hours

Preferred qualifications: NA

Project description: We are looking for help with a health communication project. We specifically need help in collecting experimental data for a dissertation project. Duties will include supervising participants who come into the lab to participate and potentially help in content analyzing some data.

_____

Project title: Understanding Caregivers' Decisions to Seek and Share Health Information with Care Recipients
Faculty supervisor: Shelly Hovick
Contact information: Sarah Thomas
Email: Thomas.3101@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 1
Project location: School of Communication

Minimum commitment per week: 4

Preferred qualifications: An ideal candidate will have taken health communication and/or public health courses as well as communication research/industry research methods courses.

Project description: More American adults than ever before acta s caregivers to friends and family members who face difficulty completing activities of living. With these tasks, distinct informational needs may arise for caregivers, that lead them to seek information about their care recipient's condition. Research suggests that this behavior is quite common; however, we know very little about the motivations caregivers may have for seeking information. I have conducted approximately 20 interviews with the caregivers of breast cancer patients. I am now looking for motivated undergraduate students to help me analyze interview transcriptions and identify key themes from the data.

_____

Project title: Assumptions of Attentional Shift: Measurement of Physical Attention during Audio Narratives
Faculty supervisor: Silvia Knobloch-Westerwick
Contact information: Elizabeth Riggs
Email: riggs.160@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 1
Project location: Journalism Building (Rm TBD)

Minimum commitment per week: 4 hours

Preferred qualifications: Dedication to and interest in communication research, minimum 3.3 GPA

Project description: The purpose of this project is to examine the role of attention to one's physical surroundings during engagement with different audio clips. Attention will be measured using a secondary reaction time task during audio clip exposure. A research assistant is needed to help with data collection. The RA would be administering the reaction time task and the other components of the lab study (pre- and post-exposure questionnaires).

If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Riggs with a statement of interest, a resume/CV, and copy of class schedule.

_____

Project Title: Video Game Study
Faculty supervisor: Teresa Lynch, Ph.D.
Contact Information: Michael Gilbert
Email: gilbert.611@osu.edu
Total number of research assistants sought: 5
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: Participants will be asked to perform a variety of tasks, including playing video games, evaluating images, and taking surveys. Research Assistants will be responsible for explaining the research process to participants and recording participant data.