

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS NEEDED Spring 2021

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 15,
2021.

Spring 2021 School of Communication Projects

Project Title: Meta-Analysis

Faculty supervisor: Dr. Brad Bushman

Contact information: Sophie Kjaervik

Email: Kjaervik.1@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3

Project Location: Remote

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours

Preferred qualifications: Organized; close attention to detail; strong reading comprehension; familiarity with academic articles

Project description: The project involves coding academic articles related to anger and anger management. Research assistants will be asked to gather data from academic articles and enter the information in excel spreadsheets.

Format of remote interaction: All communication will occur online. RAs will receive training via Zoom.

Stable on-going internet access required

Project Title: Media coverage and Twitter activity related to COVID19

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Graham Dixon

Contact Information: Austin Hubner

Email: Hubner.9@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3

Project Location: Remote

Minimum commitment per week: 3 hours

Preferred qualifications: Attention to detail

Project description: RAs will be helping conduct a content analysis on news articles and tweets related to the COVID19 vaccination.

Format of remote interaction: Zoom

Stable on-going Internet access required

Project Title: Survey Transparency Project

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jerry Kosicki

Email: Kosicki.1@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 3

Project Location: Zoom and student's choice

Minimum commitment per week: 3-4 hours

Preferred qualifications: Completion of any of the following courses would be helpful, but not essential: Comm 4820, 3160 or 3163.

Project description: We're going to be doing some content analysis of articles in some of the major communication journals to see how much they disclose about their research procedures when publishing studies based on survey research techniques. The idea is to try to increase awareness of issues identified by theories of Total Survey Error and increase awareness of problems in the reporting of survey studies. Basically this is a good opportunity to develop some research experience with relatively simple content analysis tools and contribute to the improvement of the scientific rigor of research in communication.

Format of remote interaction: Zoom

Stable on-going internet access required

Project Title: Remote Agent Interactions

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Ms. Kelsey Woods, Lab Manager

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): woods.654@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4-6

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

Preferred qualifications: Good interpersonal and professional communication skills; attention to detail; ability to adhere to strict research protocols; reliable and timely. Students with an interest in human-computer interaction or user testing are strongly encouraged to apply. *For this position, you ***must*** have a stable internet connection and a quiet, private location where you can conduct Zoom sessions without other people being able to hear you or see your screen.* You must have blocks of availability to run sessions during regular business hours (9 AM – 5 PM Monday through Friday).

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help conduct experiments on voice agents, virtual assistants, and chatbots. You will be conducting live experimental sessions over Zoom on a regular schedule. You will develop several research skills that are useful for careers in UX/UR/HCI, user experience, and market research more broadly.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). Then, you will conduct studies over Zoom on a weekly schedule.

Stable ongoing internet access required? Yes, and it must be in a quiet, private location.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/FqeEKvwwyRxRV1ct6>

Project Title: User Experience Video Coding

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Ms. Kelsey Woods, Lab Manager

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): woods.654@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4-6

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; availability for up to 3 training meetings between 10 AM & 5 PM Eastern time (times to be determined). Students with an interest in human-computer interaction, user testing, 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.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). We will maintain contact by email and you will upload your progress weekly or bi-weekly. If we run live sessions, you would be using Zoom to interact with participants and conduct user testing.

Stable ongoing internet access required? You will need to watch or download video files, so it is recommended. If you want to run live UX testing sessions it will be necessary.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/FqeEKvwwyRxRV1ct6>

Project Title: Remote User Testing

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Ms. Kelsey Woods, Lab Manager

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): woods.654@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4-6

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

Preferred qualifications: Good interpersonal and professional communication skills; attention to detail; ability to adhere to strict research protocols; reliable and timely. Students with an interest in human-computer interaction, user testing, or science communication are strongly encouraged to apply. *For this position, you ***must*** have a stable internet connection and a quiet, private location where you can conduct Zoom sessions without other people being able to hear you or see your screen.* You must have blocks of availability to run sessions during regular business hours (9 AM – 5 PM Monday through Friday).

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.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). Then, you will conduct studies over Zoom on a weekly schedule.

Stable ongoing internet access required? Yes, and it must be in a quiet, private location.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/FqeEKvwwyRxRV1ct6>

Project Title: Organizing Scientific Research

Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Ms. Kelsey Woods, Lab Manager

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): woods.654@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 2-3

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

Preferred qualifications: Excellent organizational skills; meticulous and attentive to detail; ability to self-manage, including making steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision and meeting deadlines. Understanding of research methods and ethics is preferred.

Project description: We are seeking research assistants to help with a research project that will involve searching for, coding, and organizing research materials. You will be working with spreadsheets and organizing digital files.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required

human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). We will maintain contact by email and you will upload your progress weekly or bi-weekly.

Stable ongoing internet access required? You will need to upload documents and datasets, so good connectivity is needed.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/FqeEKvwwyRxRV1ct6>

Project Title: Coding Experiences

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Jesse Fox

Contact Information: Mr. Kelly Merrill Jr.

Email (link for application is below; do not email to apply): merrill.155@osu.edu

Total number of Research Assistants sought: 4

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

Preferred qualifications: Attentive to detail; mindful; can meet deadlines; ability to self-manage and make steady progress on long-term projects without constant supervision; availability for up to 3 training meetings between 10 AM & 5 PM Eastern time (times to be determined).

Project description: This position will entail coding sensitive data tied to experiences in health and educational settings. Some data will include negative emotional experiences tied to one's sense of self. ****Trigger warning**:** please note these descriptions can be upsetting. You will be exposed to offensive and hurtful language, including slurs.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). We will maintain contact by email and you will upload your progress weekly or bi-weekly.

Stable ongoing internet access required? You will need to have stable synchronous access for the online human subjects training and the training meetings (we expect 2-3). Otherwise you can mostly work offline if needed.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/FqeEKvwwyRxRV1ct6>

Project Title: Missing Persons and Cold Cases

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: 4+

Minimum commitment per week: 3+ hours (1-3 credits; preference given to those who can put in more time)

Preferred qualifications: We are looking for reliable, hardworking, persistent individuals to hunt down information about missing persons and cold cases. Experience with database searching (e.g., Lexis-Nexis, EBSCO) is desired. You must have top notch internet digging skills, organizational skills, and, importantly, the persistence and passion to keep looking and exhaust all leads. **IMPORTANT:** This project may involve exposure to content which may be perceived as graphic, traumatizing, or offensive. Crimes may include homicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, and crimes against children. It is not suitable for everyone, so please consider this before you apply. This position will be a good fit for people interested in true crime or careers related to investigation (journalism, private investigator, law enforcement, etc.)

Project description: This position will involve identifying missing persons cases or cold case homicides (solved and unsolved) and finding media coverage of these cases. This will primarily involve research using missing persons data sources (e.g., the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System or NAMUS, <https://www.namus.gov/>), news databases (e.g., Lexis-Nexus, Newspapers.com), and internet searches. This job may require you to encounter sensitive or graphic content 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.

Format of remote interaction: If you have not already, you will need to complete the required online training modules for human subjects researchers (this will be the first assignment). After the required human subjects training is complete, we will conduct training sessions for the project over Zoom (1-3 meetings). We will maintain contact by email and you will upload your progress weekly or bi-weekly.

Stable ongoing internet access required? You will need to have stable synchronous access for the online human subjects training and the training meetings (we expect 2-3). This position requires consistent and unrestricted internet access and specifically access to the OSU Library databases. If you have had problems accessing websites or if websites are blocked or censored at your location, this position is not suitable.

To apply for this position, please fill out the following link: <https://forms.gle/FqeEKvwwyRxRV1ct6>