

Nipissing University
JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Human Evolution Laboratory Research Intern

DEPARTMENT: Department of Psychology

EMPLOYMENT DEFINITION: Full Time Contract (1 Year)

SUPERVISOR: Dr. Steven Arnocky

SUMMARY OF FUNCTIONS:

The research intern will work in the Nipissing University Human Evolution Laboratory under the supervision of Dr. Steven Arnocky. The activities of the intern will support the operations of Dr. Arnocky's research program broadly with the field of human evolutionary biology and psychology. Specifically, the intern will be responsible for assisting with aspects of NSERC-funded research examining links between immune function, physical development, and mating behavior. The intern will be involved in a wide range of research and administrative activities, with opportunities to contribute to all aspects of research from design to dissemination. These duties may include (but are not limited to) literature review; ethics applications; Qualtrics survey programming, biological sample collection and assaying (using Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays; ELISA), data collection and organization, data processing and analysis, and manuscript preparation, assisting and coordinating undergraduate and graduate research students, coordinating lab operations and meetings. There may be opportunity for attending and presenting at academic conferences. Training for all responsibilities will be provided by the supervisor, but previous experience and training conducive with laboratory work and some knowledge in the field of human evolution are beneficial.

This opportunity is proudly supported by Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and is funded through the Workforce Development Program.

Eligibility requirements of the program can be found here: <https://nohfc.ca/en/pages/programs/people-talent-program/workforce-development-stream>

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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| 1. Study planning and preparation | 20% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review literature to assist in study design• Assist with developing research questions and study protocols• Prepare ethics applications• Assist with grant applications | |
| 2. Data collection | 25% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Become proficient in the use of Qualtrics• Conduct reliable ELISA work with saliva and plasma for assay of hormones and• Immune markers• Recruit and schedule participants, provide informed consent• Conduct physiological measures of bilateral symmetry, voice recordings, grip strength etc | |
| 3. Data processing and analysis | 20% |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare collected data for further processing• Organize large multi-source data sets | |

4. Research dissemination 15%
- Attend and present at scientific conferences
 - Prepare and revise manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals
 - Develop materials to disseminate research findings to the public (e.g., blog posts, YouTube videos, infographics, workshops/webinars)
5. Coordination of lab activities and training of/assisting highly qualified personnel 20%
- Train undergraduate and graduate students on relevant research methods
 - Assist undergraduate and graduate students with data collection and processing
 - Coordinate lab meetings
 - Coordinate day-to-day lab operations

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education:

Undergraduate degree in Psychology, Biology, or a related field. A strong interest in evolution. Training in evolutionary psychology and biology, wet lab safety, ability to run ELISA's will be considered an asset.

Training, Experience, Knowledge & Skills Required:

To be eligible for an NOHFC internship, candidates must:

- Be a new entrant into the workforce, transitioning to a new career, or unemployed/underemployed and entering a new field;
 - Have not previously participated in an NOHFC-funded internship;
 - Be at least 18 years of age; and
 - Reside, and be legally entitled to work, in Canada.
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- Comfort with Microsoft Office Suite (Word/Excel)
 - Experience with statistical (e.g., SPSS) and specific add-on's AMOS and PROCESS are ideal
 - Knowledge of the scientific method and standard laboratory protocols is considered an asset
 - High degree of diligence and accuracy in all tasks
 - Strong oral/written communication skills and interpersonal skills
 - Ability to work as part of a team, and to balance multiple projects/aspects of projects concurrently

RELATIONSHIPS/CONTACTS:

Supervised by: Dr. Steven Arnocky

Internal Contacts: Staff, students, faculty

MATERIALS UTILIZED:

- Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Containment Level-2 wet lab (biological safety cabinet, centrifuge, plate washer, plate reader, pipette, related software)
- Consumables for data collection (e.g., salivettes, caliva sampling tubes, needles and vacutainers)
- Computers, software (MS Office Suite, SPSS, AMOS, PROCESS, Qualtrics)

PHYSICAL/MENTAL DEMANDS & WORKING CONDITIONS

- Intense mental concentration
- Intense work at computer stations
- All work will be conducted in the Human Evolution Laboratory (on site).

I have read my position description and it has been reviewed with my supervisor. I understand what my duties and functions are, and I will carry out all my responsibilities as herein described.

Employee Name (please print)

Employee Signature

Date

Supervisor

Date

Human Resources

Date