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Dear Stanford-France Center director

I am writing in application for the France-Stanford visiting student research fellowship, as part of the collaborative project “Learning sounds and meanings jointly in early language acquisition”.

My research focuses on studying the process by which children break into their native language. More precisely, I am interested in how babies learn jointly the structure of the sound system of the language (phonology) and the meanings of words (semantics).

My visit to Stanford will allow me to take part in an innovative project that lies at the heart of my research interest. It will consist of close collaborations with Dr. Mike Frank who will serve as my official sponsor, as well as Daniel Yurovsky and Gabriel Doyle, two postdoctoral fellows in Frank lab. Our work will be directed towards developing a model of joint sound and meaning learning, and preparing the logistics for an experiment that will test the model in a controlled setting with young children.

The optimal length of stay is estimated at three months, and will ideally take place between August and October. If funded, this visit will provide a strong momentum to the planned interdisciplinary project involving LSCP and Stanford, and will lay the ground for future medium- and long-term collaborations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Faithfully,

Abdellah Fourtassi