Impressions Lab

**Undergraduate Research Assistant Application**

**Who We Are Looking For**

We are looking for motivated, detail-oriented, and hard-working undergraduates to join the lab! As a research assistant, you will help design and conduct studies, create stimuli, recruit participants, find and read relevant research literature, and input and code participant responses. You can learn more about the type of research the lab conducts [here](https://impressionslab.org) and [here](https://neilrhester.com/).

Duties vary from semester to semester (and week to week), but we aim to give research assistants experience in all aspects of the research process. Co-authorship is a possibility for research assistants with extended ties to the lab, particularly those who eventually pursue an honours thesis or Directed Studies (research assistants with at least two terms in the lab will be given strong preference for these types of supervising).

**Credit, Compensation, and Programs**

Commitment to the lab is on a term-by-term basis. As a volunteer, we ask that you are available to work between 4 and 6 hours per week. Once you have completed at least one term in the lab, you can also request a research apprenticeship (PSYCH 264/464; ~9 hours per week). The amount of work will fluctuate across the course of a term depending on the current needs of the lab; there will be some weeks that are relatively light (you will just need to be “on call” but can study, hang out, etc.), whereas other weeks will require your full time.

**Previous Experience**

While any academic and research experience would be an excellent asset to your application (please indicate as much), we also welcome applications from anyone interested in getting involved with psychological and brain sciences and from those who have only limited or no previous experience. Enthusiasm and commitment are the most valuable assets, as we conduct publishable research and expect research assistants to respect and value the process (and hopefully have fun along the way!).

**Contact**

Please complete the following application and send it to [neil.hester@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:neil.hester@uwaterloo.ca) with **“Fall 2025 RA Application”** in the title of the e-mail, along with an **unofficial transcript** (do not send a resume). Applications will be reviewed by Neil and may also be reviewed by 1-2 graduate students in the lab. Please submit by **August 25th at 11:59 PM.** We will reach out with more information within a week of the submission date. We look forward to receiving your application!

Name:

Email Address:

Year at Waterloo:

Major (or intended major):

Please indicate why you are interested in this RA position and what you can bring to the lab:

After looking over [the website](https://neilrhester.com/), what research topics excite you most? What kind of projects or techniques would you most like to be involved in? Why?

Which, if any, psychological and brain sciences courses have you taken? Do you think any would be relevant to becoming a research assistant (if yes, why)?

Please describe any previous research experience you might have (include type of project and duties)

We do not expect you necessarily to have any special experience before coming to work in the lab (that is partly why you are coming to work in the lab with us!). However, it’s helpful for us to gauge your experience with a variety of applications, methods, and languages we use:

If you already have experience with some of the following applications or skillsets, how much?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Not at all | Slightly | Moderately | Very Much |
| Photography |  |  |  |  |
| Photoshop (or equivalent) |  |  |  |  |
| Pinning/clamping clothing |  |  |  |  |
| Maintaining clothing |  |  |  |  |
| Qualtrics |  |  |  |  |
| Excel |  |  |  |  |
| ChatGPT (or equivalent) |  |  |  |  |
| Midjourney (or equivalent) |  |  |  |  |
| HTML |  |  |  |  |
| Javascript |  |  |  |  |
| Python |  |  |  |  |
| R |  |  |  |  |

Do you have other experience with any other relevant applications or languages?

Approximately how many hours per week would you be able to commit?

If you know your Monday – Friday availability, what hours could you work in the lab?

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: