

Research Assistant Position in the Aly Lab at Columbia University

About the position

A full-time research assistant / lab manager position is available in the Department of Psychology at Columbia University, in the lab of Dr. Mariam Aly. The Aly Lab (www.alylab.org) is a cognitive neuroscience lab specializing in the interplay between attention, perception, and memory, using behavioral studies, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), pharmacological manipulations, and neuropsychological studies in populations with amnesia and Parkinson's disease.

The job entails both administrative and research responsibilities. Administrative duties include updating IRB protocols, recruiting participants, maintaining participant records (e.g., consent forms, screening forms), maintaining the lab website, ordering lab supplies, and day-to-day lab management. Research duties include assisting with ongoing projects, conducting an independent project (scheduling and running participants, analyzing data, writing papers), assisting lab members with data collection, and technical troubleshooting. The independent project and data analysis components will be useful training for individuals who are considering graduate school. Research projects could include fMRI studies, lesion studies, pharmacological manipulations, or experiments with healthy young adults.

This is a one-year position with the strong expectation of renewal for a second year and the possibility of further renewals on a yearly basis. Start date is ideally between June 1, 2020 and July 1, 2020, but there is some flexibility.

Qualifications

The successful applicant must be eligible to work in the United States, and have a Bachelor's degree (or higher) in psychology, neuroscience, cognitive science, or a related field. The degree must be awarded by the start date of this position. Technical qualifications include strong programming skills (particularly in Matlab and/or Python), working knowledge of statistical analyses, and the ability to run basic statistical tests in Matlab, R, Python, etc. Fluency with Microsoft Office or equivalent (i.e., use of a word processor, spreadsheets, slide presentations) is also required. Knowledge of research protocols (IRB protocols, HIPAA, consent forms) is helpful but not essential. Prior research experience (especially in the fields of attention, perception, and/or memory) is an advantage, but not essential.

Is this lab right for me?

Check out the following links to find out if our lab is a place you can work happily and thrive!

<https://github.com/alylab/labmanual>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06167-w>

<https://storiesinscience.org/2019/06/12/studying-and-experiencing-mental-illness/>

You are also welcome to e-mail current or past lab members to ask them about their experience.

Applying

Please e-mail the following items (in one PDF) to Dr. Aly (ma3631@columbia.edu):

- (1) 1-page cover letter describing your research interests, past research experiences (if applicable), technical skills, and why this job is right for you
- (2) your CV
- (3) phone numbers and e-mail addresses for 3 professional references (e.g., past research mentors, professors)
- (4) undergraduate transcript (unofficial copies are acceptable)

Review of applications will start March 15, 2020 and will continue until the position is filled.