

The Social Learning and Decisions Lab (<https://sldlab.umd.edu/>, PI: Caroline Charpentier) at the University of Maryland, College Park, is seeking applications for a full-time project coordinator/research assistant (UMD title: Faculty Assistant) to start in August or September 2026. Current research in the lab focuses on uncovering the behavioral and neural computations involved in human social and affective decision-making, with a strong interest in how individual variability in these processes relate to neurodiversity and psychopathology as well as developing more naturalistic paradigms to study interactive social learning.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain research experience in preparation for a graduate career, and to play a crucial role in a NIMH-funded fMRI study as well as other projects in the lab. Responsibilities and duties (with tentative % effort in parentheses) will include:

- (50%) Recruiting and testing participants for a large task-based neuroimaging (fMRI) study focused on examining multiple aspects of social learning in neurotypical and neurodiverse individuals.
- (20%) Assisting with other projects in the lab, including a study using naturalistic paradigms to better understand strategic thinking, and/or a test-retest study of social learning tasks.
- (10%) Contributing to data analyses for the above projects, conference presentations and peer-reviewed publications.
- (10%) Recruiting, training and supervising undergraduate research assistants.
- (10%) Managing day-to-day lab activities (shared accounts, participants payment, updates to lab website, IRB protocol amendments, maintaining/ordering equipment).

Required qualifications include (1) a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, Computer Science, Data Science or other related field, (2) excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills, and (3) experience with recruiting and testing human participants through task-based (PsychoPy) and/or MRI studies.

Additional preferred qualifications include good computational skills, including computer programming (R, Python, or Matlab) and data analysis/statistics, interest in social neuroscience, behavioral economics, and/or computational psychiatry, and experience with fMRI data collection protocols and fMRI data analysis (preprocessing, GLMs).

The position is full-time (40 hr/week) and in person for one year. Salary is competitive, commensurate with experience, and includes health benefits. Renewal for a second year will be considered depending on funding availability and performance.

To apply, please email the following materials to Caroline Charpentier ([ccharpen@umd.edu](mailto:ccharpen@umd.edu)) by **May 15, 2026**:

- A 1-page cover letter describing your research interests, your skills, your past research experience (if any), and why this position is right for you.
- Your CV, inclusive of relevant coursework and GPA.
- Contact details of (at least) two professional references (e.g., past research mentors, professors) who can provide a letter upon request. No need to submit recommendation letters at this stage.

Application reviews will begin immediately. The position is open until filled.

## Research assistant/Lab manager recruitment ad

The University of Maryland, College Park, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action; all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, creed, marital status, political affiliation, personal appearance, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment, in all aspects of employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.