

Research and Development Assistant (Full-time)

Outsmarting Human Minds: A Project at Harvard University

Outsmarting Human Minds (OHM), a project located at Harvard University led by Professor Mahzarin Banaji, creates videos, podcasts, and interactive content that teach about the science of bias and decision-making. Examples of our educational media can be found at www.outsmartinghumanminds.org. We are seeking a full-time research and development assistant to join a small team of creative and collaborative problem-solvers to aid in all aspects of producing evidence-based educational media.

Candidates should have a psychology or behavioral science background and additional talent and interest in **science writing for popular media** (videos, podcasts, online articles) and/or **producing immersive learning** using technology (e.g. designing apps, online seminars, interactives and visualizations for web).

Duties & Responsibilities

Primary responsibilities will include conducting literature reviews of research in the mind sciences, and developing educational modules for Outsmarting Human Minds via the drafting and revising of scripts *and/or* designing and programming for interactive learning. In addition, the research assistant can carve out time to receive traditional research training through Mahzarin Banaji's Implicit Social Cognition Lab at Harvard.

Interested candidates may also have the opportunity to contribute to other areas of creative and content development (e.g., visual design, marketing and outreach, coding data visualizations and activities).

Basic Qualifications

An ideal candidate will have a psychology or behavioral science background and be able to interpret and evaluate academic articles (i.e., the ability to read and interpret research methods to identify the strengths and weakness of research). In addition to understanding data, qualified candidates will have a gift for weaving science into stories (through words or thoughtful design) for a broad audience.

The ability to work well under pressure and to manage a diverse set of tasks is necessary. Must have good communication and interpersonal skills to work with a fast-paced team of four. Must be able to find and tinker with new methods and skills to develop creative solutions. Should be proactive, detail-oriented, and comfortable juggling multiple pieces of projects.

Opportunities for Growth

We are looking for motivated individuals who have some of the fundamentals in place (e.g., the ability to write effectively) and are willing to grow and acquire new skills. Please indicate any strong interest/motivation in learning any of the skills below (if you have experience with any of the below, feel free to mention that as well):

- Science writing or scripting for popular media (blogs, podcasts)
- Visual storyboarding and/or familiarity with the Creative Cloud suite
- Data visualization, especially using D3 or React (Java)
- Designing and/or developing interactive activities

Additional Information

This is a full-time position. Because the position is open to those motivated to learn even if not all skills are in place, this position is well-suited to a candidate who wants an entry-level position to gain experience developing educational media. The position is a one-year position with the possibility of renewal for a second year.

To Apply

Read, watch, and interact with our modules to determine which of the skills embedded in our materials could benefit from your contributions. Please prepare a resume or CV, cover letter, and relevant work samples (ideally representing the kind of non-academic writing or media used at OHM).