

Title: Research Assistant I

Job Summary:

This is a two-year limited term appointment. Continuation of employment is contingent upon availability of funds.

The Social Affect and Behavior Integrative Neuroscience (SABIN) Lab at Auburn University is seeking a fulltime research assistant to work on a NIMH-funded clinical trial that uses neuroimaging-guided brain stimulation to improve social motivation function in people with Major Depressive Disorder or Social Anxiety Disorder. This project will be conducted onsite at Auburn University under the mentorship of Dr. Travis Evans. The Research Assistant will work closely with Dr. Evans on all aspects of conducting the research study including coordination/logistics, conducting clinical interviews, running neuroimaging scans, administering non-invasive brain stimulation, and project management. Opportunities for mentorship in manuscript writing, academic conference submissions, and other types of career development will be supported.

Ideal start date is Summer 2025 or Fall 2025

Essential Functions:

- Collects, records, and processes data related to research study procedures (e.g., coordinating recruitment efforts, scheduling, phone screening, conducting clinical interviews, etc.)
- Collects and processes data related to neuroimaging and neurostimulation (conduct fMRI scans, fMRI data preprocessing, identify personalized target sites for transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), administer TMS to participants, etc.)
- Trains and supervises undergraduate research assistants
- Attends regular operations and lab meetings with Principal Investigator
- Assists with the development of research plans and protocols, supervise undergraduate research assistants and other study staff, and assists with logistical considerations (e.g., IRB documentation, preparing progress reports for the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Data Safety and Management Board (DSMB), and National Institute of Health (NIH))
- Assist in the preparation of research results for publication or presentation at conferences

Education Level:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution

Field of Study: Psychology, Neuroscience, or closely related field

Minimum Skills and Abilities:

Strong interpersonal and organizational skills; Strong problem-solving skills; Demonstrated ability to multitask, manage multiple and competing priorities, and prioritize different task demands; Exceptional attention to detail/conscientiousness and high standards for accuracy; Excellent time management skills, and ability to meet deadlines and achieve goals; Ability to create, follow, and maintain detailed protocols; Ability to communicate effectively in writing and verbally with study personnel; Ability to handle sensitive clinical data from participants; Ability to respond to constructive feedback and work both independently and collaboratively in a team environment; Ability to work with and motivate others; Ability to interact with empathy, compassion, and sensitivity when working with clinical populations; Basic computer literacy ability to comply with department needs and expectations (e.g., obtaining background information on participants, following up on appointments, etc.).

Minimum Technology Skills:

Ability to use computers to conduct essential functions as requested, and to learn new software and programs as needed

Desired Qualifications:

- At least 3 semesters of research experience, or equivalent
- Experience with statistical packages (e.g., SPSS, R, etc.)
- Experience with neuroimaging software (e.g., AFNI, SPM, etc.)
- Exposure to programming (e.g., MATLAB, Python, etc.)
- Knowledge of other software/programs used by the lab (Microsoft Office/Word/Teams, Endnote, Box, etc.)
- Experience working with clinical populations
- Experience working in a clinical research setting
- Personal experience and/or interest in mental health services
- Experience working with individuals living with psychiatric disorders
- Enthusiasm for the lab's research topics

Job Application Portal:

<https://www.auemployment.com/postings/50962>

SABIN Lab Website:

<https://www.sabinlab.org/>