**Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety**

**Application for Research Assistants**

**What We Study**

*Our lab studies the mechanisms, treatment, and prevention of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders in children, adolescents, and adults. We are currently conducting three NIMH-funded studies and approximately 3-5 pilot studies. As part of these studies, lab staff members collect self-report, interview and diagnostic, reaction time, behavioral, and neurophysiological data from participants. Specific topics studies in our lab include:*

* Neurophysiological mechanisms of anxiety in healthy and subclinically anxious populations
* Treatment of adult obsessive compulsive disorder
* Treatment of adult social anxiety disorder
* Treatment of youth obsessive compulsive disorder
* Computer-based treatment of anxiety and OCD
* Cognitive biases in anxiety and OCD
* Exposure (and response prevention) for anxiety and OCD
* Prevention of adolescent anxiety
* Neurophysiological mechanisms of anxiety in clinically anxious children with OCD
* \*\*\*ALL STUDIES INVOLVE COLLECTION OF EEG DATA\*\*\*

**Role of RAs**

*Our lab is staffed by clinical psychologists, post-doctoral fellows, doctoral and masters students, as well as post-baccalaureate and undergraduate research assistants. Research assistants play a vital role in ensuring that our studies progress smoothly.*

What we look for in RAs:

* Mature, conscientious undergraduate students or recent graduates
* Interest in clinical psychology and specifically anxiety
* Availability to commit between 12-20 hours per week
* 2 semester minimum commitment
* Leadership experience valued
* 3.0 GPA required, 3.5 preferred for current undergraduate students

Why be an RA?

We hope that RAs will gain training experiences in our lab that advance them in their pursuit of professional and academic goals. Our lab is best-suited for students interested in pursuing a research-focused PhD in clinical psychology. However, our research assistants have also gone on to pursue the following endeavors: doctorate degree in clinical neuroscience, computer programming positions, masters programs in psychology, masters in marriage and family therapy, masters in social work, masters in industrial/organizational psychology. We encourage you to speak early on (i.e., during interviews, initial weeks in the lab) about what you hope to gain from this training experience. RAs come to CUTA with varying levels of research and/or clinical experience, and leave CUTA with varying levels of preparation for graduate programs.

It is important to know that for masters-level graduate programs, experience in one lab completing Level 1 and/or Level 2 tasks is often sufficient for acceptance (see below for a general description of these tasks). For PhD-level graduate programs, applicants often have Levels 1-3 experience in several research labs. However, it is also important to note that all masters and PhD-level graduate programs screen to ensure that applicants are conscientious, detail-oriented, independent, and have good communication across all levels of lab involvement.

Levels of RA Involvement at CUTA

Level of involvement in RA tasks at CUTA varies greatly depending on a number of factors, including prior experience, number of hours in lab, the stage of project you have been assigned to, initiative in pursing further training opportunities, your own training goals, and most importantly, conscientiousness and maturity in completing assigned tasks. Tasks are broadly listed in three levels. All RAs are responsible for a variety of Level 1 tasks, however RAs may have the opportunity to participate in Level 2 or Level 3 tasks. Level 1 includes tasks that are looked favorably upon by all graduate programs, and are typical of RA experiences in their first lab placement. Level 2 tasks are those that are typically sufficient for masters-level programs, and necessary but not sufficient for PhD-level programs. Level 2 tasks are typical of advanced RAs in their first lab placements, or second lab placements. Level 3 tasks are assigned to only our most experienced and conscientious RAs. Some combination of Level 3 tasks is usually required for admission to PhD level programs. Please see below for examples of Level 1, 2, and 3 tasks.

*Level 1 RAs tasks include (all RAs):*

* Attend weekly lab meeting
* Assist in weekly study recruitment efforts
* Compete human subjects training within 2 weeks of lab start date (required)
* Read articles related to event-related potentials (ERPs) in anxiety, assessment and modification of cognitive biases in anxiety, treatment of child and/or adult anxiety disorders
* Pilot test new computer-based assessment and training programs
* Enter self-report and interview data in Microsoft Access and/or Qualtrics
* Prepare forms for participant visits
* Assist in creation and modification of study documents (e.g., fillable PDF forms with diagnostic interview questions)
* Organize study files and materials
* Obtain references for grants and papers
* Maintain personal wiki pages documenting lab tasks completed
* Communicate daily with immediate supervisor regarding status of assigned tasks

*Level 2 RA tasks may include:*

* Editing protocols on the wiki
* Running undergrad participants through computerized protocols (e.g., administering forms, computer tasks)
* Documenting participant visits
* Scheduling participant visits
* Complete eligibility phone screening assessments for ongoing studies
* Assisting in capping of subjects for EEG data collection and cleaning of physiological equipment
* Collecting EEG data from participants
* Analyzing basic (e.g., correlational, t-tests) data from self-report, interview, and reaction time measures using SPSS and R
* Presenting data at local conferences (e.g., SRS at SDSU)

*Level 3 RA tasks may include:*

* Analyzing EEG data from participants using Matlab
* Analyzing advanced data from self-report, interview, and reaction time data using SPSS and R
* Participating in study design
* Supervise and train RAs on Level 1 and 2 tasks
* Clinical opportunities (e.g., OCD support group, observing or completing reliability ratings for diagnostic assessment interviews)
* Computer programming opportunities to modify scripts used for data collection, management, and analysis
* Presenting data at national conferences
* Assisting in grant preparation
* Assisting in manuscript preparation

**Research Assistant Application**

*Center for Understanding and Treating Anxiety*

*Department of Psychology*

*San Diego State University*

*6386 Alvarado Ct. Suite 301*

*San Diego, CA 92120*

**Instructions:**

Please complete this application and submit to sdsu.cuta@gmail.com along with a CV or resume.

Date:\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Major:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GPA:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA:\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Status:

Undergraduate student

Semesters completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Expected graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: SDSU UCSD USD Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Recent graduate

College attended: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Semester/year graduated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other

Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applying For: (please choose one) Research Credit Volunteer

How many semesters can you commit to this position? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Will you be a registered student during the summer? YES  NO

Will you be available to work in the lab during the summer? YES  NO

How did you hear about this position? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Computer Background: Do you have experience with any of the following programs/languages?

Qualtrics

Unix/Linux SPSS R Matlab

Python HTML C++ Adobe Pro

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevant Experience and Plans

Do you have any research experience? If so, with whom and working on what projects?

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Do you have any other work, volunteer, or leadership experience that you think is relevant to this position? If so, describe.

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Please list any courses that you think may be relevant to this position (e.g., statistics, research methods, abnormal psychology, biological psychology, programming)

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What are your plans after graduation? (please be as specific as possible)

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What kind of research are you most interested in? (be specific)

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References

Contact Name & Relationship Phone

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Contact Name & Relationship Phone

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***\*\*Note:*** All new hires are given a one-month trial period in order to determine if this lab is a good fit.

Please block out times that you know you *cannot* work. Semester: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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