



# THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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## Research Assistantship

Department of Educational Policy, Research and Administration

15 hours/week, project assistant, Fall 2011, for the Department Chair of EPRA.

Description:

- Work with the concentration coordinators on the timely submission of academic course scheduling and requests for other data.
- Assist in planning department meetings; take notes at those meetings.
- Assist the Chair in preparing for the AQAD review, including gathering data and liaising with the Office of Institutional Research, concentration coordinators, and others in this process.
- Assist the Chair in preparing draft sections of the AQAD report.
- Any other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Excellent written and oral communications skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Experience with personal computers, including knowledge of basic word processing and spreadsheet computer programs
- Strong library and internet research skills
- Ability to work with various campus constituencies including faculty members, administrators, and students

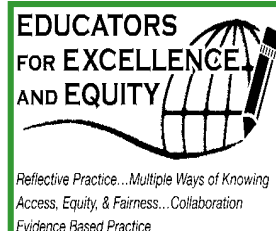
To apply, please send a resume to: Gretchen Rossman, [gretchen@educ.umass.edu](mailto:gretchen@educ.umass.edu)

In the subject line of the email, please note "RA position." /

**The Beacon will be published every two weeks  
during the summer.**

### The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

- Please submit general news and announcements to: [dms@educ.umass.edu](mailto:dms@educ.umass.edu) by 5:00 P.M. on **Friday** for inclusion in the following issue. All assistantship notices will run for two issues.
- Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Linda Guthrie. These types of announcements will run for one week.



School of Education ✧ 813 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01003

## Research Assistantships

### Department of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration

The Center for Educational Assessment in the expects several full-time (20 hours/week) graduate student research assistantships for the 2011-2012 academic year. These assistantships are associated with projects sponsored by Measured Progress, Educational Testing Service, Pearson, and the MA Department of Education.

**Qualifications:** All applicants must have a background in statistics and mathematical modeling of educational assessment data, experience working in educational assessment, and working knowledge of classical test theory and item response theory. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multi-dimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

**Responsibilities include:** Conducting multivariate statistical analyses; equating analyses; simulating data; editing technical reports; attending project meetings; writing computer code for psychometric activities such as item calibration, score scale linking, and population invariance studies; performing literature reviews on equating, scaling, standard setting, and score reporting; and co-authoring research reports. All candidates should have extensive knowledge of multidimensional scaling, plausible values methodology, test construction, and test validation research.

To apply, please contact Dr. Stephen G. Sireci, (413)545-0564 (Sireci@acad.umass.edu ). /

## Research Assistantship

### Department of Student Development

One 10 hour/week research assistantship is available for the Fall 2011. The position will entail working with an early career faculty member in the concentration of School Psychology.

**Responsibilities include:** 1) Research and scholarship related: assisting with school-based data collection projects, scoring, management, and graphing of observation data, management of observation schedules. Assisting with research for publications, compiling references into an electronic format, assisting with all phases of editing. 2) Grant Related: Assisting in all stages of grant preparation.

**Qualifications include:** The ideal candidate will have developed research skills in conducting literature reviews, using APA-formatting, and managing data sets and be agile with Excel and SPSS for data input. The candidate must be available to help collect data in schools during school hours and must also be willing to travel out of state for school-based consultation and data collection purposes. Additionally the ideal candidate must have strong organizational, time management skills, and be able to complete projects independently. Interest in social emotional learning efforts and positive behavior support is preferred.

To apply, please send a brief letter of application and your resume to Sheila Seuffert at seuffert@educ.umass.edu. Please specify "Faculty Research Assistant, School Psychology." //

## Research Assistantships

### Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 10-hour/week research assistantship for AY 2011/2012 (total of 190 hours).

**Responsibilities:** In the fall term, teach a 16-week (32 sessions) Scratch-based curriculum for an after-school program at the middle school level. Assist researchers in data collection and analysis. Attend weekly project meetings and monthly meetings on-site with after school coordinators. Coordinate with community-based organizations and personnel as part of service delivery. In the spring 2012 term, design and implement a 16-week (32 sessions) Alice-based curriculum for an after school program at the middle school level. Assist researchers in data collection and analysis. Attend weekly project meetings and monthly meetings on-site with after school coordinators. Coordinate with community-based organizations and personnel as part of service delivery.

**Qualifications:** Expertise with Scratch and Alice programming; minimum of one year teaching experience at the K12 level; background in developing and implementing technology-based curricula; experience working with diverse student populations; strong organizational skills; good communication skills; ability to travel to site.

Other desirable qualities: Interest in school-based research; able to work collaboratively as well as independently.

Interested applicants should send resume and cover letter to Florence Sullivan (fsullivan@educ.umass.edu). Please use "Scratch Research Assistant" as subject header of email. //

## OTHER ASSISTANTSHIPS

### Office of Undergraduate Research and Studies

#### **Member of Learning Resource Center Staff providing support for the Office of Undergraduate Research and Studies— 10 hours/week**

Responsibilities include:

- Intake interviews
- Familiarity with Undergraduate Research Opportunities
- Contribution towards student development workshops
- Provide evening supervision of LRC as scheduled

Applicant should provide cover letter describing relevant experience and resume by July 29th, 2011.

Please send applications to:

Susan Bronstein, Director, Learning Resource Center

sbronstein@acad.umass.edu

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#### **Supplemental Instruction Supervisor – 15 hours/week**

Assists with hiring, and supervision of Supplemental Instruction staff; with a focus on student staff training.

Provide evening supervision of LRC as scheduled

Attend staff meetings as necessary

Perform other duties as needed in support of the research and development of LRC

Applicant should provide cover letter describing relevant experience and resume by July 29th, 2011

Please send applications to:

Susan Bronstein, Director, Learning Resource Center

sbronstein@acad.umass.edu

## **International Teaching Assistants (ITA) Screening Test of Spoken English**

Fall Semester 2011

From: Nigar J. Khan, Director, Associate Graduate Dean of the Graduate School

The screening test of Spoken English Communication skills for fall semester 2011 will be conducted from **September 7** to September 11, 2011. The purpose of the test is to identify any potential difficulties international teaching assistants may have in understanding spoken English or in being understood in the undergraduate classroom.

All incoming international teaching assistants/associates (ITAs and ITOs) and returning students who will be assuming TA responsibilities for the first time are required to demonstrate their oral English proficiency by passing a test of spoken English. A standardized test, (SPEAK test), designed by the Educational Testing Service, is used for assessing and measuring the spoken English ability of International Teaching Assistants. A score of 50 or above is required to pass the test. We recommend that students who are not currently funded but who may be funded for a TA or TO position in the future should also take the test.

Students who do not pass the test are encouraged to either participate in the English communication instruction classes, offered by the Graduate School, or enroll in another suitable program recommended by their Graduate Program Director (GPD).

The English communication classes are free, meet in small groups for one hour twice a week plus ½ hour weekly individual tutorial. Classes are free and are offered throughout the academic year. When space is limited, priority is given to those with the greatest need. Therefore, students with a score of 45 are included in classes on a space available basis. At the end of each semester, students are reevaluated and progress report is sent to the graduate program directors. Students, who do not meet the criteria, may continue in the Communication Instruction classes for additional semesters. International Research Assistants and graduate students without funding may participate in the instructional classes offered during spring on a space available basis.

A schedule for the screening test is below. It would be very helpful to us if you could pass this information on to ITAs in your department. We would also appreciate it if you could let us know approximately how many students from your department would be participating in the screening test during fall 2011 semester. Contact info:

Send the information to Lori Baronas in the Graduate Dean's Office, 518 Goodell.

E-mail information to Lori Baronas at [baronas@grad.umass.edu](mailto:baronas@grad.umass.edu)

Call Lori Baronas at 545-5278

Please respond by August 20, 2011. *If you have any questions, please call 545-5278.*

### **International Teaching Assistant English Language Screening Test Fall 2011 schedule**

September 7

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 8

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

September 10

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 13

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Students will need to sign up for the test outside Room 518, Goodell Building. The sign-up sheets are now posted. A sample test may be obtained at the time of sign-up or from Lori Baronas in Room 518, Goodell Building. The test will take approximately 1 hour.

**[www.umass.edu/education](http://www.umass.edu/education)**