



THE BEACON

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Massachusetts Amherst

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Or go to the School of Education home page and click on The Beacon icon.

Research Assistantship

Department of Student Development

10 hours/week Research Assistantship for Fall 2011 to assist with the development of mobile device software for educational research, data collection and management and literature searches.

Qualifications: All applicants must have thorough knowledge of Xcode for iOS and Java script for Android operating system. Applicants must have knowledge of software design, accessibility, and experience developing software applications. Excellent written and oral communication skills are required.

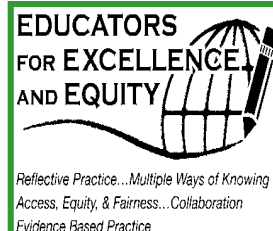
Responsibilities include: Developing mobile device educational applications for students with autism. Brainstorming, creation of storyboards, writing code, and testing software. Regularly attend meetings with the research team. Participating in research activities is likely, including but not limited to data collection and analysis. Co-authoring publishable research reports is possible. Necessary hardware and programming software will be provided.

To apply, please email resume and letter of application to: Dr. Jason Travers, travers@educ.umass.edu. /

**The Beacon will be published every two weeks
during the summer beginning with the June 9, 2011 issue.**

The Beacon Deadline is FRIDAY

- Please submit general news and announcements to: 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

FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

ABIGAIL LEIBOVITCH

Proposed Dissertation Title: "Perspective-Taking and the Ability to Make Emotion-Based Inferences Among Children with High-Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders."

Statement of the Problem: Perspective-taking or Theory of Mind related skills are central to the successful navigation of social situations. There is strong evidence that children on the autism spectrum have impaired perspective-taking abilities. However, we do not yet have a clear understanding of the specific deficits that make up this larger impairment. The primary goal of this study is to examine whether children on the autism spectrum experience more difficulty inferring the emotions of others when compared to typically developing children. **Chairperson: Dr. William Matthews.**

Project Assistantship

Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies

One 20 hour/week project assistantship to assist Professors Azevedo and Sullivan as needed to develop NCATE-compatible rubrics for LMT courses, including defining the standards required for each course and creating assessments that align with these standards. The position is a 3-week PA position.

Please contact flavio@educ.umass.edu.

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Teaching Assistantship

Department of Student Development

One 10 hours/week teaching assistantship is available for Fall 2011 for EDUC 325. EDUC 325 is designed to teach education and non-education majors the fundamentals of Special Ed. in the U.S.

Responsibilities include: attending weekly class lecture (Tuesdays 4:00-6:30 pm), meeting weekly with instructor to plan/discuss class, holding weekly office hours, facilitating course instructional planning, helping with grading, and tracking student attendance.

Qualifications include: Preference given to those who have special education teaching experience at any level, college level special education course teaching experience, experience using Blackboard/SPARK as a teaching and grading platform, computer skills (excel and data management), and strong organizational skills.

To apply, please email your resume or CV to Jason Travers, PhD at travers@educ.umass.edu

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The Center for Teaching & Faculty Development (CTFD) is pleased to invite departments to participate in the annual campus-wide Teaching Assistant Orientation (TAO) scheduled for Friday, September 2, 2011, from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. The Provost's Office, CTFD, and Graduate School co-sponsor TAO to provide graduate students new to teaching with a comprehensive preparation opportunity. Additionally, TAO may serve to meet the departmental requirement for TA development as stipulated in the contract negotiated on behalf of TAs by the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO).

Preliminary program and registration details can be found at: http://www.umass.edu/ctfd/teaching/ta_support.shtml. Questions about TAO? Please call: (413) 545-1225, or email us at: ctfd@acad.umass.edu.

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

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

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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). //

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

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.

Call for Nominations

The K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award

Deadline for receipt of materials: October 3, 2011

The K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award recognizes graduate students who show exemplary promise as future leaders of higher education; whose work reflects a strong emphasis on teaching and learning; and who demonstrate a commitment to developing academic and civic responsibility in themselves and others. The award honors the work of K. Patricia Cross, Professor Emerita of Higher Education at the University of California, Berkeley. Please go to the K. Patricia Cross page of AAC&U's Web site for complete information.

Eligibility

All doctoral-level graduate students who are planning a career in higher education are eligible, regardless of academic department. Graduate students in fields where the MFA is the terminal degree, such as art or music, are also eligible. (Nominees must hold student status in January 2012.)

Applicants must demonstrate:

1. Leadership ability or potential for exercising leadership in teaching and learning, with a strong commitment to academic and civic responsibility
2. Leadership or potential leadership in the development of others as leaders, scholars, and citizens

Nomination Process

A faculty member or administrator must nominate the student, with a supporting letter from a second faculty member or administrator. The following materials must be submitted for an application to be considered:

1. A nomination letter from a faculty member or administrator
2. A supporting letter from a second faculty member or administrator
3. A statement from the student indicating how he or she meets the award criteria
4. A copy of the student's curriculum vitae

Nominations can be submitted anytime, but no later than October 3, 2011. Nominees must also complete an online form with all contact information. Only complete nominations will be considered.

The Award

The K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award provides financial support for graduate students to attend AAC&U's 2012 Annual Meeting, which will be held in Washington, DC, January 25-28, 2012. All award recipients are required to attend the conference.

The award includes travel, lodging, conference registration, and a one-year affiliation with AAC&U, including subscriptions to all AAC&U periodicals.

The awards will be announced in December 2011, and recognized at AAC&U's Annual Meeting in January.

Contact Information

Please contact Suzanne Hyers at hyers@aacu.org or 202.387.3760 with any questions.

www.umass.edu/education

OTHER JOBS

Office of Undergraduate Research and Studies - 10 hours/week

Member of Learning Resource Center Staff providing support for the Office of Undergraduate Research and Studies

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

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

Faculty, students, staff & alumni share what they are doing

In his article "Rap Universal": Using Multimodal Media Production to Develop ICT Literacies" published in the May 2011 issue of the Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy, **assistant professor K.C. Nat Turner**, Department of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, illustrates how teachers in an urban public school in one of northern California's most impoverished, lowest performing districts taught students to use multi-modal media production (MMP) as a relevant sociocultural practice that demanded school-based literacies. Through this MMP literacy intervention in an extended-day program, culturally and linguistically-diverse students developed specific "how-to" skills useful in future academic, professional, social, and civic contexts, abilities to critically interpret and produce media, and an understanding of the value of skills and literacies across contexts.

Read more ... <http://www.reading.org/Publish.aspx?page=/publications/journals/jaal/v54/i8/abstracts/jaal-54-8-turner.html&mode=redirect#>

Send items to dms@educ.umass.edu