



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY - LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

The Curiosity Battery Project at Lancaster
University's Active Learning Lab & Infant and
Child Development Lab

North West
Social Science
Doctoral Training
Partnership



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Project Outline

The Curiosity Battery project is an ongoing 5-year project, led by Dr Marina Bazhydai at Lancaster University and Dr Lily FitzGibbon at Stirling University, which aims to measure the multidimensional nature of curiosity in primary school children (7-11-year-olds) and examine its impact on learning and well-being over time. The [Curiosity Battery](#) incorporates a number of existing and new measures of children's curiosity through self-report and behavioural computer-based tasks. The outcome of the project would be an open-source online toolkit to share the Curiosity Battery with researchers and educators.

We would be happy to welcome a PhD student to become an integral part of our team to conduct a research study with children aged 7-11, either in schools or in our laboratory, the Infant and Child Development Lab located at Lancaster University. The student would be trained on all testing procedures and supported with data analyses. The student would collect data using developed measures of child curiosity, contributing to the ongoing data collection effort to validate the Curiosity Battery, assessing the measures' validity and reliability. The rich dataset provides a scope for additional research questions the student could investigate related individual differences in curiosity, including both quantitative and qualitative analyses.

Placement Timeline and Key Objectives

We would be happy to support the student in developing a stand-alone study, or contributing to the ongoing set of studies, and offer them opportunities to co-author the scientific outputs, such as conference presentation and peer reviewed manuscripts.

Suggested timeline as follows (full-time, adjustable for part-time):

- Weeks 1-3: lab training, project and literature familiarisation
- Weeks 4-9: data collection in schools and/or Lancaster Infant and Child Development Lab
- Weeks 10-13: data analysis and collaborative writing with support from the project team

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Required and Desired Skills

This project would be especially suitable to PhD candidates in Psychology, Educational Research or Health and Wellbeing pathways who have training in conducting empirical research with human participants. An ideal candidate has experience working with children and their caregivers and/or is interested in such hands-on research experience.

Timeframe

This 13-week placement can be worked either full-time over 3 months in June to August or part-time (min 0.4 FTE) starting from June.

Delivery of project

This will be an in-person project, with some virtual or hybrid tasks possible. The project entails collecting data (either in the lab or in local schools), recruiting participants, communicating with children's caregivers, as well as managing and analysing data.

Induction process and support you will receive

The student will become a research assistant in the Active Learning Lab led by Dr Bazhydai and the Infant and Child Development Lab – a collective laboratory space housed in the Department of Psychology. All training, including health and safety, risk assessment and a DBS check will be provided as per the Department of Psychology's standard provisions and guidelines. The student will be supervised directly by a full-time post-doctoral researcher and by the PI and Co-I on the research project. The student will be invited to join weekly research team meetings to discuss the progress of the project in a supportive and collaborative setting. The student will also be invited to join events organised for and by the community of PhD students and ECRs at Lancaster University.

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Ethics Approval

The ethics approvals have been obtained through the Faculty of Science and Technology at Lancaster University. The student will be added as a researcher to the approved project.

Equality and Diversity commitments

Lancaster University fully aligns with the NWSSDTP's commitments. All relevant buildings are accessible, however, testing child participants in the laboratory might be challenging for a wheelchair user. We are happy to discuss appropriate adjustments to the project's scope with interested candidates.

How to apply

To apply for this role, please complete the 'Expression of Interest form' available on the [NWSSDTP website](#), using job title mentioned in the NWSSDTP advertisement.

Once completed and discussed with your supervisor, return the completed form to Amy Connolly (rippls@liverpool.ac.uk).

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