

Full-time Research Assistant Position in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
University of Maryland, College Park

Dr. Tracy Riggins in the Department of Psychology at the University of Maryland College Park is seeking a Full-time Research Assistant (payroll title *Faculty Specialist*) for a research project examining the role of sleep and brain development on memory during early childhood. This project is in collaboration with Dr. Rebecca Spencer at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. See www.ncdl.umd.edu for more details about the study and lab.

Responsibilities will include: (1) conducting experiments with young children (including: recruiting, scheduling, and collection of polysomnography (PSG), and neuroimaging (MRI/fMRI) data; (2) preprocessing and analyzing data; (3) training and supervising undergraduate research assistants; (4) performing general administrative duties, including data management, lab web pages and participant recruiting systems; (5) programming scientific experiments and developing experimental stimuli, (6) assisting with IRB protocol creation and compliance, (7) conducting library searches and literature reviews to assist in manuscript preparation; and (8) providing general support for the PI and other researchers in the laboratory including, but not limited to, purchasing and maintaining lab equipment. Please note: the official payroll title at UMD for this position is “Faculty Assistant.”

Qualifications: Required background and skills include: a bachelor’s degree in a related scientific field (e.g., psychology or neuroscience); reliable transportation; previous research experience with human participants (preferably with children and/or using fMRI, EEG, or PSG); the ability to work independently; keen attention to detail; and the ability to interact warmly and professionally with parents and children. Strong computational, organizational, managerial, problem-solving, and analytic skills are essential.

The position is set to begin as soon as possible. A 2-year commitment is required; third year is possible dependent on available funding. Review of applications will begin January 26, 2026 and continue until the position is filled. Interested individuals should email a cover letter describing their background and future goals, CV, and names and contact information of 3 references to Tracy Riggins at riggins@umd.edu. Please include all documents in a single pdf file and include your last name in the file (i.e., “LASTNAME.pdf”).

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