

Maximizing your Undergraduate Research Experience



Who are we?



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the Talwar Research Lab
Current Masters student in the
department of Educational and
Counselling Psychology in the
Human Development Program**



Isabelle Flory

**Current Lab Coordinator and RA at
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Masters Student in the Sociology
Department**

How to gain volunteer experience



Facebook

**MPSA, McGill Jobs
and Internships**



McGill Work Study



Search McGill's
Faculty Pages

**Check out the program's
faculty page to see if
professors' have labs and
if they are looking for
volunteers**

How to Send Your email for a Volunteer Position

Always state what position you're applying for (i.e. Volunteer RA vs. Paid RA)

RA)



Be
Specific

Attach your CV, Transcript and any additional required forms



Relevant
Information

Most grad students are looking for relative flexibility



Make yourself
available

How to Interview

Experiences related to working with a lab (working with children, working in a clinical setting, working with individuals on the Autism Spectrum)

Strengths, weaknesses, how would you improve your skills by being in that SPECIFIC lab



Research the lab! Make sure you know the lab's background and research areas

Ask questions!

What is expected during your experience
Typical shift
- Grad student's research
- Policies regarding academic or job references

What to do if you get a position



Be open

The tasks may not be what you expected; tasks depend on stage of research your supervisor is on.



Long term

More opportunities for new tasks and experiences come the longer you are able to stay on a research team.

A Quick Note about Sending Emails



**Remember to reply to
your supervisor's
emails!**

How to Engage in the research lab



**Stay on top of
your assigned
tasks!**



**Remain
professional
and respectful**



**Problem solve
and ask for
clarification**



**Ask Questions
Show Interest**

Asking for more Opportunities

Interested in a research project or paid position?

- Some labs may not offer paid positions
- If the position you are applying for is as a volunteer - then they are not looking to hire paid individuals at that time
- Ask the professor directly if they are taking on students for research projects



Asking for Reference Letters



- Ample time needed
- Minimum amount of hours



- Graduate school applications: from Professor
- Job reference: from professor or graduate student



- Keep in mind how long you have been at the lab
- 1 month vs. 6 months of work makes a difference

Caveat

Upcoming Workshops*

March 11th - Learn About Graduate Programs in the Educational and Counselling Psychology Department from Graduate Students

- Programs:

- Educational Psychology
- Human Development
- Learning Sciences
- Counselling Psychology
- School/Applied Child Psychology

*Located in Stewart Bio S14

March 18th - Graduate School Q&A About the Application Process

Thank you!



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