Undergraduate Research Assistants Needed for Paid, Off-Campus Data Collection for Department of Communication Research Project

Overview and Description

Professors Sahara Byrne and Jeff Niederdeppe seek undergraduate research assistants for field work, data collection and participant recruitment related to a communication research project about graphic warning labels on cigarette packages funded by the National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration. The project has two primary populations: middle schools students and low income adult smokers. This project involves off campus data collection in urban and rural sites within ~5 hours of Ithaca.

Scope: This fall we will begin recruitment of 640 low income adult smokers (50% from urban sites, 50% from rural) and 640 middle school students (also urban and rural). The study takes place in our mobile research lab. Research assistants will receive valuable training in data collection methods, research design and cultural competency by assisting the research team in running the study. These positions provide hands on, team-based research experience relevant for fields such as public health, communication, policy, economics, law and psychology. RAs will work closely with project leadership, including the Project Director, Dr. Amelia Greiner Safi, and Profs. Byrne and Niederdeppe.

We will need a large, talented team of research assistants able to work with sites as their schedule allows. The teams will collect data at various times during the school day (7:30-3), other times during the week (including occasional evenings and overnights) and weekends. We will provide transportation to these sites.

Timing and study details: Our next wave of data collection will begin in late September. Our main need is for research assistants who have an entire weekday available, especially Monday-Thursday. Data collection will be periodic as sites and schools are able to participate and as weather permits. The study will run for the next two years. Excellent RAs will be invited to continue to work on the project in subsequent years of this study.

Hourly rate: $12

Availability Requirements

RAs will need to be available on a regular basis for both one full weekday and occasional weekend days. Priority given to those students who have multiple weekdays available or availability during Monday-Thursday.

Note: Some overnight trips may occur during data collection (generally, leave Thursday, return Friday or Saturday evening or depart Friday and return Saturday evening – though school based projects would be midweek). Details can be discussed during interview.
Qualifications

- Participate in training in September or October, including basic online IRB training
- Ability to travel for data collection
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Check email regularly
- Ability to closely follow protocols and work with Project Director
- Ability to work with diverse group of research participants and research assistants
- Comfortable in interactions with research participants
- Strong attention to detail
- Able to work independently and with groups
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- Willing to go through a background check if working with youth
- Willingness to help with all aspects of research project: site coordination and prep, mobile research lab loading, recruitment, participant consent/debriefing, scheduling, etc
- Preferred: Experience with off campus data collection, especially with lower income populations, in rural and city settings

Department of Communication Project Leadership

- Amelia Greiner Safi, PhD: Senior Research Associate & Project Director
- Sahara Byrne, PhD: Associate Professor, Principal Investigator
- Jeff Niederdeppe, PhD: Associate Professor, Principal Investigator

To Apply

By September 16th, email Amelia Greiner Safi (Project Director) at alg52@cornell.edu with:

1. your resume and
2. answers to the following questions:

   1. Why are you interested in this position?
   2. Which week days would you be able to spend a full day collecting data? (i.e. Tuesdays, most Thursdays).
   3. Which Saturdays would you be able to collect data this term?
   4. Any other details about your availability for fieldwork?

Qualified applicants will be contacted for a brief interview. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.