

## **Undergraduate Research Assistants (URA) Positions Recruitment Notification: Neural Engineering and Translation (NEATLabs)**

### **About NEATLabs:**

At NEATLabs we conduct human clinical translational research as well as research in animal models. Our research projects have three major goals: 1) to better understand typical functioning of neural circuits underlying cognitive control, 2) to better understand how neural circuits underlying cognitive control are impacted in neuropsychiatric disorders, and 3) To develop and advance accessible therapeutic technologies for ameliorating brain network function deficits. For empirical assessments, we employ surveys, gamified versions of neurocognitive tasks and electroencephalography (EEG). Most of our data analytics are performed in MATLAB and Python code.

### **Job Description:**

There are two part-time paid Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) positions available at NEATLabs. The URAs will work in teams supervised by Dr. Jyoti Mishra (for human studies) and Dr. Dhakshin Ramanathan (for animal studies). Responsibilities include the following:

- Conducting data collection, laboratory or field experiments on human subjects or rodents.
- Computational modeling, archival research, data analysis, cataloging or classifying questionnaire outcomes.
- The URA may also have the opportunity to present their work in an undergraduate research symposium or conference.
- The URA will also write a reflection paper (400-500 words) describing their work experience and professional growth at the end of the quarter.
- The URA may also be required to perform other duties as assigned by their immediate graduate/postdoctoral supervisor such as occasional troubleshooting of computer software and hardware.

### **Qualifications:**

- Background in coding in MATLAB or Python.
- Ability to use Excel or Google Sheets for data entry; dedication and commitment to data entry and data cleaning tasks
- Ability to work independently
- Organizational and multitasking skills
- Meticulous attention to detail
- Strong interpersonal communication skills are desired for those interested in interaction with human subjects in compliance with HIPPA regulations
- Professionalism as demonstrated by being responsible, ethical, and team-oriented
- Strong quantitative analysis skills for those interested in data analytic responsibilities
- Ability to meet weekly deadlines
- Commitment to UC San Diego's equity, diversity, and inclusion values.

### **Preferred Qualifications:**

- For data collection, prior experience in human and/or animal physiology experiments.
- For analytics, background in coding in MATLAB or Python.

### **UC San Diego Competencies:**

There are 12 competencies identified by UC San Diego that help to promote student success, development, and career management that broadly prepare students for success in the workplace. All 12 competencies are outlined on the website at: <https://elt.ucsd.edu/competencies/index.html>

In compliance with UC San Diego instructed competencies at NEATLabs, the URAs will be supervised and trained by the senior personnel in the human/animal research teams. The major goals of the internship will be to convey hands-on experience of science - including all aspects of data collection, analysis and presentation. Goals would be participation in undergraduate research symposiums, and learning skills that would make applicants competitive to get paid research jobs after graduation in either an academic research lab or in the biotech industry; or competitive to apply to graduate or medical school. Below are the competencies that are applicable to these two positions:

- **Research ability:** Accesses and evaluates multiple sources of information, including text and images, and synthesizes information to solve problems and create new insights.
- **Critical thinking & problem solving:** Identifies important problems and questions and gathers, analyzes, evaluates information from a variety of sources before forming a strategy, decision, or opinion.
- **Oral, written, & digital communication:** Conveys meaning and responds to needs of diverse audiences through writing and speaking coherently and effectively, and develops the expression of ideas through written, oral and digital mediums.
- **Teamwork & cross-cultural collaboration:** Works with and seeks involvement from people and entities with diverse experiences towards a common goal, demonstrating strong interpersonal skills, respect, and dignity for others.
- **Professionalism & integrity:** Demonstrates integrity, honesty, dependability and ethical responsibility, and accepts direction and personal accountability.
- **Digital information fluency:** Demonstrates technological literacy and skills, and ethically and effectively uses technology to communicate, problem-solve, and complete tasks.

### **Hours:**

15 hours per week.

### **Salary:**

\$20/ Hour

### **Student Eligibility:**

- Enrolled at least half-time at UC San Diego as an undergraduate student.
- Must be a California resident.
- Must have a current FAFSA on file with the Financial Aid Office or qualify under the California Dream Act.
- Demonstrated financial need.
- Eligibility to work in the U.S.
- Maintenance of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.
- Be in good academic standing with your school and major.

Priority will be given to eligible students who are first-generation college students, current/former foster youth, homeless, or at risk of being homeless. Further priority will be given to students who are majoring in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) discipline.

### **Notices:**

- *The University of California is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.*
- *If you have relatives employed at UCSD, you must include the name, relationship, and department where employed in your resume or cover letter. This information is used only for the purpose of complying with the University's nepotism policy.*

### **Application Process:**

To apply for an Undergraduate Research Assistant position, please submit your Curriculum Vitae, Cover Letter and Academic Transcript on handshake portal:

<https://app.joinhandshake.com/emp/jobs/8436353/details>

Your Cover Letter (200-300 words) should answer the following prompts:

- Tell us about yourself and briefly describe any previous experience with research, jobs, extracurricular activities, or community service that has prepared you for this position.
- Please describe your educational and career goals and how this position may prepare you for your future career.
- Building on your values, identities, and previous experiences, how will you contribute to creating a diverse, inclusive, and supportive environment in the Learning Aligned Employment Program?

### **Note:**

- Please mention your PID number on top of your CV for verification purposes.
- Please add your Surname at the end of your file name, for eg. Cover Letter Smith

**Contact:**

You can find more information about NEATLabs on our website <https://neatlabs.ucsd.edu/>.  
For any specific query please write to [s2jaiswal@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:s2jaiswal@health.ucsd.edu)