

PVL Template #1: Research Specialist (Principal Research Specialist in Lab)

Degree and area of specialization:

A Bachelor's degree is required. A degree in Psychology, Communication Sciences and Disorders, or related field is preferred.

Minimum number of years and type of relevant work experience:

Well-qualified applicants will have the following preferred experience:

- At least one year of psychology research experience in an academic setting.
- Experience working with infants, toddlers, and families.
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Excellent written and oral communication.
- Computer proficiency and experience using Microsoft Office software.
- Experience with E-Prime and MATLAB.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Position Summary:

The Waisman Center is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases throughout the lifespan. One of only 15 centers of its kind in the United States, the Waisman Center encompasses laboratories for biomedical and behavioral research, a brain imaging center, and a clinical bio-manufacturing facility for the production of pharmaceuticals for early stage human clinical trials. In addition to its research efforts, the Center provides an array of services to people with developmental disabilities, offers numerous educational and outreach programs to young children and their families, and trains scientists and clinicians who will serve our nation in the future.

Required Information regarding Work Unit: [Research in the Infant Learning Laboratory focuses on the kinds of learning abilities required to master the complexities of language. The laboratory study how infants learn about the auditory world, particularly the beginnings of language acquisition and music perception.](#)

Brief Description regarding Position: This position will assist in development, execution and evaluation of the language research in the Infant Learning Laboratory. This position will maintain the lab website, oversee recruitment of participants for research studies, be responsible for the training and supervising of students as well as making purchases for the lab, aiding in grant management and budget planning, be responsible for coding videos of experiments, training undergraduate researchers to assist in coding, data management and analysis, and assist the PI in manuscript and grant preparation.

Commented [CY1]: Most research specialist positions will require at a minimum of a bachelors' degree. Please note whether the position would require that the degree must be focused in a particular field or if it would be desirable to be in a certain field.

Commented [CY2]: Consider what qualifications or experience would be required for the position. Evaluate whether a listed qualification is necessary for an individual to perform the tasks.

Additionally, consider what qualifications or experience would be "preferred or desirable" in a candidate. These qualifications should relate to the responsibilities of the position but would not be necessary/essential for a candidate to possess prior to taking the position.

Years of relatable experience will determine the appropriate title for a position. At a minimum, the following years of experience to recruit at a title is noted below:

Associate: 0 - 2 years
No-Prefix: 2 - 7 years
Senior: 7 or more years

Commented [CY3]: Please note that we are required to provide information related to the work unit and position. A brief description (3 - 5 sentences) regarding your lab and an overview of the position would be sufficient.

Principal Duties:

55% - Perform research related tasks and activities

Recruit appropriate participants for research studies. Test infant and toddler participants in various language acquisition studies using the Head Turn Preference, Looking-While-Listening, and eye-tracking experimental models. Interact with parents and coordinate the experimental testing procedures. Train and supervise undergraduate student hourly workers on the recruitment procedures and various aspects of data collection.

20% - Make purchases for the lab, assist in grant management, and assist with the budget planning process.

15% - Input and analyze experimental-related data, using E-Prime or MATLAB.

5% - Maintain the lab website content.

5% - Assist the PI in manuscript and grant preparation. This includes finding reference sources and the review of draft documents.

Commented [CV4]: Consider how this position is expected to perform the research related tasks or how does the position support research being conducted/done within the lab?

Duties must be assigned percentages that will total up to 100%. The title of a position is determined by the majority of time spent performing related tasks (**i.e. 51% of the duties must align to the proposed job title**)

Considerations for noting job duties:

- What resources, equipment, specialized software would be utilized to accomplish tasks?
- Does this position supervise any staff? If so, identify who and how they are to provide supervision?
- What research tasks are performed?
- What other tasks are performed?