

PTSD Treatment and Research Center: RA Position Information

Thanks for your interest! We're excited you're looking to possibly join our lab. Undergrad research assistants (RAs) are an important part of our lab, and we look forward to learning more about you during this process.

Before applying, please review these responsibilities, expectations, and opportunities for RAs in the PTSD Research and Treatment Program. This helps both us and you make sure that this position would be a good fit!

The Big Picture

When and where: Undergrad research assistants in our lab typically start between May-June. The position is entirely virtual, so you can still serve as an RA in our lab, even if you're not in Ohio over the summer. We ask that RAs in our lab commit to the position for at least 1 year (fall and spring semesters).

Who: Our RAs are typically Psychology majors who are interested in a career in research. Most of them are interested in pursuing a PhD in Clinical Psychology. Our lab is a great training program if this is what you are interested in. However, if you are not a Psych major, or are not 100% certain of what your future career and education holds, our lab may still be a good fit. We are only able to accept CWRU students as RAs due to restrictions related to our research.

Below, you will find some information about the responsibilities of RAs in the PTSD Lab.

Responsibilities

Weekly Commitment: RAs contribute typically 3-8 hours of lab work each week. Your tasks might include:

- Monitoring participant progress on REDCap
- Assessing and auditing data for completeness and accuracy
- Assisting with participant recruitment
- Helping schedule assessments
- Writing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and training other Research Assistants

For the 2026-2027 school year, RAs will spend most of their time assisting with the PATH Study, which is a large clinical trial assessing treatments for PTSD. There also may be opportunities to assist with other grad student projects, doing various things like assisting with literature reviews or setting up online surveys.

We know Case students are very busy and are doing many things at once! That said, serving as an RA in our lab is a time commitment. Before applying, please ensure you would be able to consistently commit at least 5 hours per week to the lab for at least 1 year.

Lab Meetings: RAs are expected to attend weekly virtual 1-hour meetings. The exact day and time is determined based on the availability of RAs in the lab. During these meetings, we discuss weekly tasks, as well as cover professional development opportunities which are covered more in that section below.

Those that are not able to make the weekly RA meeting that semester due to schedule conflicts (i.e. a class at the time of the meeting) are expected to set up biweekly check-ins with our Research Coordinator (RC) . If you need to miss a meeting, please let our RC know at least 24 hours in advance by email. You may miss up to two meetings per semester with prior notice. If you miss a meeting, please reach out to Noni and ensure your tasks for the week are completed. Missing more than two meetings per semester or failing to notify us in advance may lead to a discussion about your continued role in the lab.

Communication: We ask that RAs respond to emails within 24-48 weekday hours in a professional manner. When engaging with the lab team and community, please represent our study with respect and courtesy. For tips on email etiquette, please refer to [this guide](#).

While this is a volunteer opportunity, that generally has a lot of flexibility for when you complete certain tasks, we do ask for communication if anything

Task Completion: We try our best to assign you to tasks you are interested in, and rotate tasks each semester to ensure that you have opportunities to learn a variety of skills. There is some flexibility in exactly when you complete your tasks—as long as they get done that week.

If you encounter any challenges or have questions, please reach out promptly so we can support you in meeting deadlines. We understand that you are a student and things can get busy during the semester. That said, we do ask you to prioritize your work for the lab and ensure that you are regularly completing tasks. If tasks are repeatedly delayed or not completed by the agreed upon deadline, we will need to review your involvement in the lab.

Independence and Problem-Solving: You may be asked to complete tasks you haven't done before and we will help you learn the ropes. After this, we encourage you to tackle problems independently and consult other resources before seeking help. We're here to support you, so please ask focused questions if you need assistance.

Training and Onboarding: Please complete all onboarding paperwork and training within two weeks of request. If training isn't completed by this deadline, you may not be able to join the team for the semester.

Opportunities

Our lab is a great training ground for those interested in a career and further education in Psychology and Clinical Research. Many of our RAs have gone on to hold full-time Research Coordinator positions after they graduate from CWRU, and many others have gone onto PhD programs in Clinical Psychology. Our goal is to help support you, give you the training, skills, and information you need to help you reach these kinds of goals!

We try our best to provide regular professional development opportunities to help you foster this. Many of these opportunities take place during the weekly RA meeting. Some of these opportunities are informational, led by grad students in our lab, such as:

- Q&A about:
 - Applying to Clinical Psychology programs and post-bacc positions
 - The research process and how to nail down your research interests
- Lectures on:
 - The IRB and how to work with them
 - Data monitoring and why it's valuable
 - Specific research areas, like sexual assault

We also create some opportunities for our RAs to develop valuable research skills in applied ways, such as

- Abstract writing exercise
 - We give RAs the topic and data and they write a mock conference abstract. We provide detailed feedback for them to apply.
- Poster presentations
 - You present the the abstract you wrote, in the same way you would present a poster at a psychology conference
- Journal club
 - RAs choose a scholarly journal article about a topic that interests them, others read the article, they lead a discussion about the study's methods and findings
- Subject matter research
 - RAs look into the different symptom clusters of PTSD or different treatments for it. They create a presentation on that are and learn from others presentations

Thank you for understanding and for your commitment. Our goal is to support you and ensure a positive experience. We look forward to working with you and achieving great things together

If all of this interests you, please complete an [application to be considered](#). Applications are open until May 18th, 2026 at 11:59pm