

Finding Research Opportunities in Psychology

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Big questions that inspire many smaller questions:

- Who is doing research on what and where?
- Where might I fit in? Where might I learn the most in a reasonably short period of time?

Locations:

Psych departments/colleges and universities

Academic departments/universities (public health, social work, education, medicine, nursing)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/hrmo/hrmo.htm>

National Institutes of Health (NIH) <http://www.nih.gov> (multiple sites)

Departments of Health (state, city or county)

Veterans Administration (VA) <http://www.va.gov/>

Topics:

American Psychological Association (APA) <http://www.apa.org>

Convention: <http://www.apa.org/convention06/>

Divisions: <http://www.apa.org/about/division.html>

Go to the links via the "psychology topics" section

<http://www.apa.org/science/ssi.html> (Summer Science)

<http://www.apa.org/science/undergradopps.html> (follow the links to undergrad research databases)

Section on non-academic careers in research psych

Journals

Clinicaltrials.gov <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov> (search under "mental health," or specific condition or disorder)

Medline (PubMed) <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?DB=pubmed>

Getting ready to apply: nuts and bolts

Resume or CV: What matters?

Cover letter: Do your homework.

Experience: Volunteer on campus? Attend research meetings? Shadow?

Questions to ask yourself: What really engages me?

What do I need from my work that will foster my intellectual, personal, and career/professional development?

Can I volunteer or do I need to be paid?

Are there some kinds of research that I cannot, in good conscience, participate in? (Identify those areas.)

Identifying investigators and studies: Networking and Web resources

➤ Networking

Psychology Department faculty members

Wesleyan Alumni WesCAN (informational interviewing) Search by "occupation" (not industry), by degree (PsyD, PhD, MD) or profession (doc, therapist/counselor), major (psych, NS&B)

Wesleyan parents

At home

- Web search for Internships (volunteer or paid) (short or long)
<http://www.psichi.org/awards/> Key word: "undergraduate research"
<http://www.socialpsychology.org/> Social Psychology Network (S. Plous)
<http://www.clinicaltrials.gov> Clinical Trials currently underway, anticipated or just completed.
- CRC Web site <http://www.wesleyan.edu/crc>

Health Professions page (list for summer) http://www.wesleyan.edu/crc/explore/library/health_professions.html. See especially the links to Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) sites:
<http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/index.jsp> and the National Institutes of Health
<http://www.training.nih.gov/student/index.asp> (Look for the "post-baccalaureate" or "pre-doctoral" categorization and check out all of the institute affiliates that might be of interest to you, e.g., NIMH, NCCAM, NINDS, NIA, NICHD.)

Go in to your portfolio in MyCRC and go to the "Tools and Links" section and follow directions to the "Internship " or job databases, including "Recently Entered Jobs," Cardinal jobs, Consortium (LACN) postings

Individual institutional HR/Employment/Job pages (vocabulary caution) may be found using Hospitalweb:
<http://adams.mgh.harvard.edu/hospitalwebusa.html> (hospitals and medical center Web sites by state)
Boston area: Partners <http://www.partners.org>
(For a listing of jobs at Harvard-affiliated institutions)

Questions to ask yourself when you find a possible job or internship:

- What are the job responsibilities?
- What % of time will I be doing data entry?
- May I attend research meetings?
- May I talk with those who have worked/are working with you?
(What is the culture of this work place?)
- What time commitment do you expect?
- How will I be trained?
- Will I have a mentor?
- How is this research funded?
- Ask yourself:** Is this research congruent with my values?

- Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)
<http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/index.jsp>
- National Institutes of Health <http://www.training.nih.gov/student/index.asp>
(Look for the "post-baccalaureate" or "pre-doctoral" categorization and check out all of the institute affiliates that might be of interest to you, e.g., NIMH, NINDS, NIA, NICHD)

Go in to your portfolio in *MyCRC* and go to the "Tools and Links" section
And follow directions to the "Internship " or job databases

Job databases (job titles may vary; try to develop a repertoire)

"Recently Entered Jobs"

Cardinal jobs

Monstertrak

Consortium postings, e.g. Liberal Arts Career Network (LACN)

College Venture (a semester away)

AND:

- Individual institutional HR/Employment/Job pages (vocabulary caution)
Hospitalweb <http://adams.mgh.harvard.edu/hospitalwebusa.html>
(For a listing of hospitals and medical center Web sites by state)
- Boston area: Partners <http://www.partners.org>
(For a listing of jobs at Harvard-affiliated institutions, including McLean)

Questions to ask when you find a possible job or internship:

What are the job responsibilities? (mind the data entry and the cubicle with the telephone)

What % of time will I be doing data entry?

May I attend research meetings?

May I talk with those who have worked/are working with you?

(What is the culture of this work place?)

What length of commitment do you expect?

How will I be trained?

Will I have a mentor?

How is this research funded?

Do I believe this research is congruent with my values?