

Research Technician, Baby's First Years Study, Omaha

The Baby's First Years study team seeks a Research Technician with a bachelor's degree in Psychology, Neuroscience, Child Development, or a related field. This individual will pilot and subsequently run the lab-based and home-based data collection in Omaha, Nebraska for the age 4 wave of data collection, under the direction of Drs. Tim and Jen Nelson.

Primary responsibilities include assisting with the development and pilot testing of study procedures, successfully scheduling study participants for university-based data collection, administering study visits, uploading data, and engaging in quality control procedures. Individuals in this role may also train and manage research assistants. Duties may include light travel to participant homes.

Study Description

The [Baby's First Years study](#) is a pathbreaking random-assignment study of the impact of monthly unconditional cash gifts to low-income mothers of infants during the first four years of their child's life. The aim is to understand the causal effects of poverty reduction on early childhood development and family life. One thousand racially and ethnically diverse mothers were recruited from hospitals shortly after giving birth in each of four metropolitan areas — New York City, New Orleans, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and Omaha, Nebraska. Participating mothers in each site were randomized to receive either \$333/month or \$20/month. More about the study, media coverage, and its motivation can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Participating families completed questionnaires around the focal child's birthday at 12, 24, and 36 months. At 48 months, families will be invited to local university settings so that we may directly assess children's cognitive and emotional development and brain function. Data collection at 48 months will include standardized assessments of children's cognitive development, measures of child brain activity (EEG/ERP), maternal and children's hair cortisol, epigenetics, maternal executive functioning, and administration of a survey on health and family life.

Minimum Qualifications

The ideal RA candidate will be/have:

- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Neuroscience, Child Development, or a related field
- Experience working in a research setting
- Experience working with young children
- Able to commit to the position starting January 2022 full-time for 18 months
- Willing to work weekends and flexible hours to accommodate study families
- Extremely detail-oriented and adept at multitasking
- Trained in basic research methods

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience administering standardized cognitive assessments
- Experience with EEG
- Experience working with families from low-income communities
- Experience working with REDCap
- Understanding of Institutional Review Board operations
- Bilingual in English and Spanish
- Transportation for home visits

Please direct any inquiries about the position to Brian Rivera [brian.rivera@unl.edu].

Review of applications will begin 12/07/2021 and continue until the position is filled.

Target start date is January 2022. To be considered for the position, please go to <https://employment.unl.edu/postings/76197>, requisition S_211095 and click on “Apply to this job”.

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