

INVESTIGATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SLEEP REGULATION IN BABIES

3 PhD student positions in sleep research

Department of Psychology, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Research:

In my research group we investigate possible mechanisms underlying the relationship of sleep and brain development in infants. We aim at gaining understanding which factors are linked to the development of sleep regulation, e.g.,

- Longitudinal development of infant sleep and gut microbiota (Project 1)
- Effects of nutrition on sleep and brain development (Project 2)
- Promoting healthy sleep with an intervention (Project 3)

I seek applicants for three doctoral positions (each 3.5 years). Supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), this research entails various disciplines and techniques, i.e., neuroscience, developmental psychology, clinical groups and microbiology.

What we offer:

With an inspiring and social environment I offer an excellent opportunity to interact with leading researchers and other collaborators from whom to benefit regarding expertise, experience and advice. Successful students will be able to build their own international research network and to prepare themselves for an academic career.

Trainings specific to the projects will be provided. Additionally, there will be involvement in exploratory projects. Diversity and inclusion are important to me. I promote growing independence in pursuing the assigned project goals, and freedom in pursuing the academic goals. Salary is aligned with SNSF regulations.

Your responsibilities:

Candidates will (or will learn to) organize assigned research projects focusing on infants and families. The candidates take responsibility for the projects and will work both independently and in collaboration with others. The candidates will supervise Master's and Bachelor's theses integrated into the projects.

Candidates will focus on taking PhD-level classes to help build a solid foundation of research skills. Candidates are expected to actively participate in regular progress reports, critically review literature and finally obtain a PhD degree.

Your profile:

Ideal candidates should be close to graduating (or have just graduated) with excellent grades from a Master's program in the following (or related) field:

Project 1: Neuropsychology/-biology, Cognitive Psychology, Physiology, Micro-/Biology;

Project 2: Neuropsychology in combination with Microbiology, Biochemistry/, -informatics;

Project 3: Neuropsychology, Cognitive Psychology, Neurobiology, Engineering.

Candidates are required to have good social and communication skills for working with families and infants, and to be team players. Experience with young children, babies or families is considered an advantage. Candidates should be committed, self-motivated, flexible, and intellectually curious and possess strong quantitative and analytical skills. They should appreciate the value of knowledge and enjoy problem-solving and independent thinking.

Superior knowledge of German (or French) is necessary for interacting with families. Advanced English speaking and writing is required. German and English are the primary languages used in our working environment. For German-speakers, the French language will be considered an advantage.

The candidates must be comfortable (or willing to become comfortable) with programming software (R, Matlab, etc.). Advanced computer skills are needed, and prior experience with EEG analysis is an advantage.

Geographical mobility is required for infant recruitment, family assessments, training visits and visits to collaborations among the University of Zurich, the University Hospital Zurich, and the University Children's Hospital Zurich. Flexible work times are required (occasionally on weekends and evenings).

Place of work:

Primary location is the University of Fribourg; Department of Psychology; Rue P.A. de Faucigny 2; 1700 Fribourg. A part of the work is with families at their homes, and collaborations around Zurich.

Start of employment:

Employments start in October 2019 or to be mutually agreed. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis.

The application should contain the following items in a single pdf:

- A. Letter of motivation (max. 1 page)
- B. Personal statement (max. 1 page)
- C. Curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages)
- D. Copies of diplomas (only post-high school/ Gymnasium)
- E. Names and contact information of up to three (academic) references

Contact:

[salome.kurth \[at \] usz.ch](mailto:salome.kurth[at]usz.ch)

Salome Kurth, Dr. sc. nat.; Assistant Professor (SNSF Eccellenza Professorial Fellow)
email subject: "PhD position BSL"