

Graduate Research Positions in the O'Doherty lab at the California Institute of Technology

The O'Doherty lab at the California Institute of Technology is seeking candidates for two graduate-level research positions. The O'Doherty lab conducts research aimed at determining the computational, behavioral and neural basis of reinforcement-learning and decision-making. A particular focus of the lab at present is on gaining an understanding of how these mechanisms vary across individuals and are altered in psychiatric disorders. The projects will involve behavioral testing of human research participants on-line and in the lab, fMRI scanning, computational modeling and data analysis. Successful applicants will be involved in programming behavioral tasks, collecting data from human research participants on-line and in-lab, analyzing behavioral and fMRI data, as well as in supporting the information technology infrastructure needed to implement these research projects.

Two positions are available:

(1) Research technician. The ideal candidate will have the following characteristics: (a) knowledge of computer programming preferably with some experience in general programming (e.g. python), web-services (e.g. html, javascript) and statistical analysis (e.g. Matlab, R). (b) A working familiarity with UNIX/Linux operating systems. (c) An interest in and motivation to work in the area of computational and decision neuroscience. (d) An undergraduate or masters level degree in a quantitative discipline, or in psychology, neuroscience or a related discipline alongside substantial evidence of quantitative skills.

(2) Research Assistant. The ideal candidate will have a background (at the undergraduate level or above) in psychology, neuroscience or a related discipline, and have a strong interest in the study of the neural and behavioral mechanisms of learning and decision-making. Prior experience of interacting with human research participants and in administering experiments to human participants would be an advantage. Experience with data analysis of behavioral or neuroimaging data would be helpful. An affinity for quantitative areas of psychology and neuroscience would also be an advantage.

Caltech is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

For more information please contact Dr. John O'Doherty jdoherty@caltech.edu. To apply please send a curriculum vitae and the names of 2 referees to Ms. Mary Martin: mmartin@caltech.edu.