

Neuropsychology Externship Learning and Development Center, Child Mind Institute

The [Child Mind Institute](http://childmind.org) offers psychology graduate students a 12-month externship in neuropsychology in our [Learning and Development Center](#). The neuropsychology externship program is designed for graduate students in clinical, school-clinical, neuropsychological, and clinical health psychology programs. Applicants should at least be entering their third year of training. Preference is given to clinical psychology students who are or will be taking neuropsychological assessment classes or who are enrolled in a specialized neuropsychology program or track.

The Learning and Development Center is dedicated to giving children the tools and support they need to manage their learning difficulties and succeed in school. Our dedicated team of clinicians, which includes two board certified neuropsychologists, provides diagnostic evaluations, neuropsychological testing, and personalized education plans that consider a child's learning strengths and deficits. Most important, our clinicians write comprehensive, user-friendly reports that offer recommendations for families and schools that may serve as baselines from which to measure a child's future progress.

The externship will primarily involve performing neuropsychological, psychodiagnostic, psychoeducational, and psychoeducational evaluations. Patient populations include children and adolescents with various learning disabilities, ADHD with comorbid learning problems, and children with various neurological conditions affecting cognitive development and learning. The extern will be required to administer, score, and write reports based on test results obtained. Externs will also participate in intakes and feedback relevant to these testing cases. Our training approach is based on a developmental model that involves close mentorship and partnership. You will be working closely with our neuropsychologists in the first phase of the externship, observing the different staff perform evaluations and seeing many different children for different portions of an evaluation. Later, externs will administer tests with a supervisor present to guide you in the development of your professional clinical goals and to help develop your mastery of many neuropsychological instruments. Externs will then also be assigned personal assessment cases that you will see through the entire evaluation: intake, assessment, and feedback. We aim to have externs observe and participate with many different cases and to give them time to work independently on their own cases.

Externs are expected to complete 5-8 full battery assessments with integrated reports per year. We do not offer training in any Rorschach system.

There are also opportunities to work individually with school-age students and young adults on organizational skills, planning, time management and related executive functioning skills. Typically, an extern will carry up to two cases at one time.

Faculty and Supervision

The Learning and Development Center staff includes neuropsychologists, an education specialist, and a speech and language therapist. Our neuropsychology faculty members are dedicated to providing high-quality clinical care with compassion and cultural sensitivity. Additionally, our faculty are involved members of the professional community, serving on local and national committees for professional organization, presenting at local and national conferences, publishing in peer-reviewed journals, and contributing to media publications and appearances.

- Laura Phillips, PsyD, ABPdN, Senior Director, Learning and Development Center
- Matthew Cruger, PhD; Senior Neuropsychologist; Associate Clinical Director
- Kenneth Schuster, PsyD; Senior Neuropsychologist; Director of Clinical Training
- Adam Zamora, PsyD; Clinical Neuropsychologist, Neuropsychology Externship Coordinator
- Daryaneh Badaly, PhD; Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Alex Bellantuono, PhD; Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Rachel Ganz, PsyD; Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Evelyn Ramirez, PhD; Clinical Psychologist
- Angela Dewey, PsyD; Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Jessica Watson, PhD; Associate Psychologist

Externs will receive 1 hour of individual supervision and 1 hour of group supervision per week. Supervisors have open-door policy and make themselves available to the extent that schedules allow.

Externs will observe supervising neuropsychologists in their assessments for the first 1-2 months of the training year, after which supervisors will directly observe students in administration of at least one full neuropsychological battery. All intakes and feedbacks will take place with supervisor present. Supervisor closely supervises writing of neuropsychological assessment report, which also follows a developmental model.

Didactics

In addition to a year-round, Institute-wide training series, neuropsychology externs will participate in a bi-weekly didactic series focused on neuropsychological assessment, neurodevelopmental disorders, and intervention. The first 2-3 months of supervision time will also focus on understanding how we select testing measures, how we integrate data and conceptualize data, how we arrive at diagnoses, what we recommend and why, and how we approach report-writing. Case conference will take place approximately 1-2 times per month. Additionally, externs attend lectures through our Visiting Professor Series, which are instructed by renowned experts in mental health, and externs can meet as a group with each visiting professor.

Externship Timeframe

The externship will begin on July 5, 2023, although a mandatory orientation will take place on June 26, 2023. The externship will end on June 30, 2024.

Application Details

Only applications from doctoral students in their 3rd year, or above, will be accepted. Applicants should be experienced in administration of IQ and other cognitive measures, as well as academic achievement measures. Preference is given to applicants that have worked with children with

neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., ADHD, learning disorders, language disorders). This externship does not provide a stipend.

To apply to the Neuropsychology Externship, please electronically submit the following as a single PDF* to training@childmind.org (only applications submitted to training@childmind.org will be accepted):

- Cover letter addressed to Laura Phillips, PsyD, ABPdN; Senior Director, Learning and Development Center; Adam Zamora, PsyD, Neuropsychology Externship Coordinator; and Kenneth Schuster, PsyD; Director of Clinical Training;
- Up-to-date CV (including a list of assessment measures in which you are familiar, have some experience, and are proficient);
- Eligibility letter indicating permission for a 20-hour-per-week experience;
- Two letters of recommendation; and
- A de-identified testing report.

**Please note that the Consortium Guidelines require that all these documents are submitted as a single PDF.*

Applicants may only apply to UP TO TWO externships at the Child Mind Institute (applications submitted separately). Applicants must indicate the externship or externships that they are applying to in their cover letters. Applications may be submitted between January 9 and January 16, 2023, in accordance with Consortium Guidelines. Interviews will be held by invitation and scheduled on a rolling admission basis. Notification of acceptance will begin on March 6, 2023, at 9am. Please note that students that submit applications for two externships will receive only one offer during the first round. Information as to whether a second offer will follow will not be provided.

If you have any questions regarding the Neuropsychology Externship, please contact Adam Zamora, PsyD (Adam.Zamora@childmind.org). For general Child Mind Institute psychology externship questions, please contact Kenneth Schuster, PsyD, Director of Clinical Training (Kenneth.Schuster@childmind.org).

Interviews

Interviewees will be contacted beginning January 18, 2023, and interviews will occur between January 23 and February 28, 2023.

Applicants will have one interview with two staff members, during which time they should be prepared to discuss their interest in the training experience, training goals, and prior testing experience. Applicants should also be prepared to present an assessment case.

Additional Information

Externs may assist in faculty presentations to professional and community groups as well as monthly parent support/education groups. Externs may also participate in research and conference presentations. Together we decide what role externs take, depending on the individual extern's level of experience and comfort in that subject area. It has varied from simply observing our presentations to taking the lead on them.

Opportunities may be available to be involved in research projects, which may be suitable to satisfy a Master's thesis or similar requirement.

Child Mind Institute is committed to public health and to the safety and wellbeing of our leagues, visitors, and volunteers. As such, we have adopted a policy requiring all paid or unpaid staff whose positions require them to be on site to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or to meet the legal guidelines for an exemption.

The Child Mind Institute is easily accessible through MTA public transportation and is wheelchair accessible. A transportation stipend is not provided. The Neuropsychology Externship does not require home visits.