

Clinical Neuropsychology Externship Learning and Development Center (LDC), Child Mind Institute

Externship Description

The Child Mind Institute 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, and psychoeducational evaluations. Patient populations include children and adolescents with various attention, language, and learning disorders affecting their academic success, youths with various neurological conditions affecting cognitive development and learning, and children and adolescents with complex psychosocial presentations. 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 supervision. 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 approximately 8 full battery assessments with integrated reports per year. Additional opportunities to accrue experiences with different tests and conduct school observations as part of cases headed by staff members may be available. We do not offer training in any Rorschach system.

There are also opportunities for motivated externs 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, education specialists, and speech and language therapists. 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.

- Daryaneh Badaly, PhD, ABPP; Training Coordinator (Learning and Development Center); Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Kenneth Schuster, PsyD; Director of Clinical Training; Senior Neuropsychologist

- Laura Phillips, PsyD, ABPdN; Senior Director (Learning and Development Center); Senior Neuropsychologist
- Matthew Cruger, PhD; Clinical Director; Senior Neuropsychologist
- Alex Bellantuono, PhD; Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Angela Dewey, PsyD; Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Rachel Ganz, PsyD; Clinical Neuropsychologist

Externs will receive a minimum of 1 hour of individual supervision. Based on extern preference and flexibility to coordinate with supervisor schedule, individual supervision can be fully in-person. Externs will also receive a minimum of 1 hour of other mentorship/training per week, typically in a remote format. 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 to 2 months of the training year, after which supervisors will directly observe students in administration of a neuropsychological battery. Subsequently, externs are able to conduct testing in an independent fashion. Either the extern's direct supervisor or another licensed psychologist will be available on site should any clinical emergencies arise during independent testing. 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

Early didactic and supervision opportunities for externs will also focus on understanding how to administer different measures, how to select measures and interpret their findings, how to integrate and conceptualize data, how to form diagnostic impressions and form relevant recommendations, and how to write effective reports. In addition, neuropsychology externs are asked to attend a weekly didactic series focused on neuropsychological assessment concepts and methods, the neuropsychology of neurodevelopmental, neurological, and psychiatric disorders, and relevant intervention. 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 1, 2024, although a mandatory orientation will take place on July 1, 2, & 3, 2024. The externship will end on June 30, 2025.

Application Details

Application: Please visit our posting on <https://nynjadot.apa.org>

Only applications from doctoral students in their third year or above, will be accepted. Applicants must have permission for a 20-hour-per-week experience. Applicants should be experienced in administration of intelligence and other cognitive measures as well as academic achievement measures (e.g., WISC-V, WAIS-IV, D-KEFS). 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*;
- Cover letter addressed to: Daryaneh Badaly, PhD, ABPP, Training 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 [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS], in accordance with Consortium Guidelines. Interviews will be held by invitation and scheduled on a rolling admission basis. Interviewees will be contacted beginning [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS], and interviews will occur between [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS]. Notification of acceptance will begin on [to be decided by NYNJADOT-PSYDNYS], 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 Daryaneh Badaly, PhD, ABPP (Daryaneh.Badaly@childmind.org).

For general externship questions at the Child Mind Institute, please contact Kenneth Schuster, PsyD, Director of Clinical Training (Kenneth.Schuster@childmind.org).

Applicants will interview with the Training Coordinator; additional staff may also participate in the interview. Applicants 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. Externs may also participate in research projects 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.

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.