



The NTID PLAY Lab is recruiting team members who want to learn more about developmental science

Contact PlayLab@rit.edu for more information

Collaboration, inclusivity and student involvement are the backbone of research efforts at the [NTID PLAY Lab](#). Our lab is one of four labs and several senior research scholars at the [NTID SPaCE Center](#). Our research scholars conduct a variety of studies related to cognition and cognitive development in Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing infants, children, and adults. For some select projects, fluency in ASL may be required.

What follows is a description of how you can get involved as an undergraduate student, graduate student, postdoc fellow, or staff researcher. For any position, please complete an [application form](#) here (note this is not a formal job application, but an expression of interest). You may inquire directly to Dr. Bosworth about research experience.

Undergraduate Students

Research Experience for Course Credit:

Currently, RIT or NTID undergraduate students can work in the PLAY Lab by taking a lab course called **NDLS 285** – “Independent Studies” - for 1 to 3 units per semester. This is a good “lighter” alternative to the more intense senior/capstone projects and may earn letters of recommendation for future employment. Discuss with the lab director how many units you want (3 to 8 hours a week). Also discuss with your academic advisor to make sure these meet your graduation requirements.

As a “student RA” for course credit, you would work closely with the lab director, staff members and other research assistants in a collaborative environment on one of the lab’s main areas of research focus.

Expectations of the NDLS 285 lab course:

- Curiosity about human behavior and enthusiasm for science!
- Interest in cognitive science, psychology, community development, human development, human computer-interaction, or computer science
- Decide on a regular schedule (3 to 8 hours per week) and commit to it
- Willingness to learn and engage with a group
- Maintain your own weekly task list and document your progress
- Attend weekly one-on-one and group meetings

Students will have an opportunity to submit their projects for poster presentation at the NTID or RIT Undergraduate Research Symposium, due late July.



Undergraduate Senior/Capstone Projects:

If you are a student majoring in Psychology or LEAD, you can complete your senior or capstones in our center. These experiences are highly valuable for future employment, letters of recommendation, and graduate school admissions. Please discuss with your academic advisor to make sure these meet your graduation requirements. First, you can look at the SPaCE Center's website for our research goals, topic areas, and publications to identify a research topic that you are interested in. Then, email one of the [faculty lab directors](#) to express interest in doing a Senior/Capstone Project and discuss potential ideas.

Psychology Majors: The Senior Project is offered as a 2-semester series for 3 credits each (and students must take PSYC 251 as a prerequisite.) When the student is enrolled in PSYC 501 (usually Fall semester), the student learns about research methodology and identifies their project advisor and develops a research proposal due by the end of the term. During the 2nd term, for PSYC 510, the student then works in the lab to collect and analyze data, and writes up a research paper with results and discussion. In April/May, the student presents a poster at the annual CLA poster session.

LEAD Majors: Students can complete their LEAD 500 – experiential learning – in the SPaCE Center. They can also do an undergraduate research project to satisfy their LEAD 501 – capstone seminar during any semester or summer. The project would be related to psychology, community development, deafness, access and inclusion. The topic and methodology of the capstone is up to you and your faculty advisor after discussion.

If you are interested in independent research for credit or pay, **we encourage you to plan early (months in advance)** and complete the [application form](#) because our labs have limited spots available.

Other Paid Student Research Opportunities:

RIT/NTID students can obtain **funding** to cover summer salary, conference travel, and other research expenses (www.rit.edu/ntid/studentresearchers). Please contact the lab to find out more.

The [RIT-RISE Scholarship program](#) offers salary pay and training for Deaf and Hard of Hearing undergraduate students who want to obtain a PhD later. Eligible students are 1st or 2nd year students who have a GPA of 3.0 or better in a bachelor's degree program. Student trainees can attend local and national conferences, present papers and posters and publish or co-publish their work. Students can work in the SPaCE Center or PLAY Lab as a RISE trainee.

If you are seeking a co-op opportunity or a job after graduation, the [NTID Co-op and Career Center](#) (formerly the NTID Center on Employment) can help. The SPaCE Center



has a limited number of co-op opportunities for students who meet qualifications and basic research or computer programming experience.

Graduate Students

Students who are looking to apply to graduate school and work in the SPaCE Center may be eligible for financial and mentoring support through the [Bridges to the Doctorate](#) program. Eligible graduate degree programs are computing science, human computer interaction (HCI), imaging science, and experimental psychology. In 2024, we also are accepting PhD students for the new Cognitive Science PhD program.

If you would like to apply to a graduate program at RIT and you want to work with one of our lab directors (Drs. Bosworth, Dye, Fitch) on a topic related to their focus areas, you should review the RIT graduate program course work and admission requirements for either program:

- 1) [Master's Degree in Experimental Psychology](#)
- 2) [Master's Degree in Human Computer Interface \(HCI\)](#)
- 3) [PhD in Cognitive Science](#)

Then, contact the lab director via email with your CV and a statement of how your research interests are a good fit with the PLAY Lab. Complete a graduate application (usually February) for priority review. Be sure your personal statement clearly states your interest in the center's research.

Some applications may qualify for fellowships under the [RIT AWARE-AI NSF Research Traineeship Program](#). Graduate students from associated RIT Ph.D. and MS programs are invited to review information on how to apply and benefits for Trainees at our website: <https://rit.edu/nrtai>. Women, Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing, and African American, Latino/a American, or Native American students are especially encouraged to apply.

Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Currently, the PLAY Lab is recruiting a postdoctoral fellow to assist with our NIH-funded [Exploratory Behaviors Museum Study](#). We are particularly interested in candidates who completed their dissertation on a topic related to language, cognition, deafness, and/or child development and have some proficiency in American Sign Language (ASL). If you are interested, send a cover letter and CV to Dr. Bosworth.

Possible funding may be available via research grants or the [Rochester Partnership for Research and Academic Career Training of Deaf Postdoctoral Scholars](#) (RPP). This program provides paid mentored teaching and biomedical research training for Deaf/HH scholars at the University of Rochester and RIT/NTID.

Lab Inclusion & Anti-Racism Statement: *We endorse the belief that human diversity in race, abilities, gender and cultural experiences is to be embraced and is necessary for academic and scientific excellence. I, Rain Bosworth, as lab director, am firmly supportive of efforts to*



dismantle systematic discrimination (racist, sexist, ableist, ageist, colonialist, heterosexist, classist) and I will not tolerate any type of racism, injustice, or bias in the lab or outside. I acknowledge that I need to do more and my words are meaningless unless backed up by action.