

Internship in infants' language acquisition study, Institute for Language Studies

A student internship position is available at the Institute for Language Sciences. This is an unpaid position for a student who needs to complete a research project or lab rotation as part of the requirements of their Masters or Bachelors course.

The study

We will conduct a study with 20-month old infants to test their ability to detect non-adjacent dependencies (i.e. patterns of co-occurrence between non-adjacent elements: **He** run-**s**, **He** eat-**s**) from the linguistic input without explicit instruction, using an artificial language. The acquisition of these dependencies is considered to underly later acquisition of morpho-syntactic rules, such as the Subject-Verb agreement. The study is part of the project "Driving forces and constraints of linguistic generalizations", which aims to test learners' ability to extract linguistic generalizations from the input using statistical learning.

What you will do

As an intern you will work under the daily supervision of the PhD candidate in charge of the project. You will have the opportunity to actively participate in several different parts of the study:

- Assisting with the set up and the pilot of the experiment
- Scheduling and testing participants
- Data processing and data analysis

What you will gain

You will earn hands-on experience with running lab-based studies with infant participants. You will familiarize yourself with widely used experimental paradigms in developmental research such as the head-turn preference procedure or online measures (eye-tracking). You will also earn experience with processing and analyzing research data.

Requirements

- Good written and verbal English. Knowledge of Dutch is also highly preferable as you will be working with 20-month old Dutch speaking children.
- Currently studying Linguistics, Psychology, Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, or a related discipline
- An interest in language acquisition
- Excellent attention to detail and organizational skills
- Strong interpersonal communication skills
- Capable of working independently

Starting date: November 2023

Interested? Contact: Areti Kotsolakou (a.kotsolakou@uu.nl)