

Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

Thank you for your interest in joining the *Cambridge Body, Mind and Behaviour Laboratory*. The lab receives many inquiries about graduate study, and below is some information to address the most common questions.

Practically all students who plan to do a PhD in the lab first complete the MPhil in Social and Developmental Psychology. Further details about the degree, and how to apply, can be found here:

<http://www.psychol.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/prospstupg/sdpmphil>

Please note that the MPhil is a terminal degree, that is, there is *no guarantee* that after having completed the MPhil you will be admitted to the PhD, for which a separate application needs to be made to the Department. Acceptance to do the PhD depends, first, on performance on the MPhil course, and second, whether there is availability in the lab to take on a new student on your proposed topic.

The following are essential requirements for graduate study in the lab:

- 1) An undergraduate degree in Psychology with a top mark. Occasionally applicants with psychology-related degrees will be considered (e.g., neuroscience, economics)
- 2) Knowledge of quantitative methods and research methods used in psychology
- 3) Knowledge of current literature related to proposed research question
- 4) Excellent writing skills

In addition, highly desirable skills are:

- 1) Research experience in psychology
- 2) Knowledge of statistical software (e.g., SPSS or R)

In order to be considered for funding, your application to the Department needs to be received by certain deadlines that depend on whether you are a UK or international applicant:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/gradadmissions/prospec/studying/funding/>

Please note that if you are a **US applicant** the deadline to be considered for the Gates Cambridge Scholarship is already in **October**. Other deadlines are typically in December and early January. Funding at Cambridge is highly competitive and difficult to obtain. If you are an applicant from outside the UK it is therefore recommended that you also look into funding sources from your home country.

In general, before submitting a graduate application to the Department you need to identify an appropriate supervisor with expertise on the topic you plan to study. Because each

supervisor can support only a limited number of applicants, a pre-selection needs to be made. As part of this pre-selection, please send the following materials to Dr. Schnall if you are interested in joining the lab:

- 1) CV that includes details on obtained degree (with grade) and, if applicable, previous experience that is relevant to your planned project.
- 2) 1-2 page summary of your research proposal that addresses a specific research question and includes a proposed method of testing the question. This should include citations to relevant current literature.
- 3) A writing sample that shows your best work (course essay, report of undergraduate research project, etc.).

If you have any further questions about your application, please contact Dr. Schnall directly: ss877@cam.ac.uk