Opportunities in the Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center

Opportunities for research experiences at the Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center are available for faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduates.

PSLC Summer Internships for Undergraduates
An exciting summer research opportunity available for undergraduate students interested in the fields of psychology, education, linguistics, languages, computer science, human-computer interfaces and language technologies. The program provides support for 8 weeks during the summer. Each student will receive a fellowship stipend of $4000 and an allowance for housing and travel. Guidance and supervision of the research project is provided by a faculty member as well as, in some cases, a postdoctoral fellow or advanced graduate student.

Applications will be considered without regard to gender, race, or ethnicity. Applicants should have at least a 3.5 GPA (out of 4.0). Other measures such as class standing, grades in specific subjects will also be considered. This program is limited to ten positions per year.

Program Benefits: This experience is an excellent experience for students interested in pursuing a Masters or Ph.D. If the work completed in this program adds significant value to an ongoing research project: the student may be asked to be a coauthor on a publication, the faculty advisor would likely be willing to write a letter of recommendation for the student, and the environment that the student has been in for the summer should contribute to the quality of the student's application essay.

Application Deadline: March 6, 2006. Students will be informed of our decision by April 14, 2006. The application is available at www.learnlab.org

For More Information:
Visit us on the web @ www.learnlab.org
Email us @ pslc-submit@lists.andrew.cmu.edu
Call us @ (412) 268-6162
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2nd Annual PSLC LearnLab Summer School
An intensive 1-week course on technology-enhanced learning experiments and building intelligent tutoring systems. The summer school provides a conceptual background and considerable hands-on experience in developing, running and analyzing technology-enhanced learning experiments. Each day includes lectures, discussions, and hands-on sessions where the participants work on developing a small prototype experiment in an area of math, science, or language learning. Participants work in teams using state-of-the-art tools including the Cognitive Tutor Authoring Tools and other tools for course development, natural language dialog, semi-automated coding of verbal data, and storing and mining of student interaction data. On the last day, participants present the accomplishments of their team project. Participants will be expected to do some preparation before the summer schools starts.

Program Dates: Tentatively scheduled for the week of July 31, 2006.
Where: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted in April.
Attending Graduate School in Areas Related to PSLC
Students who are interested in applying to graduate school to work on subjects in the Learning Sciences are encouraged to see the websites of the Departments and Institutes at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh that are affiliated with the PSLC. They should contact those Departments for more information since applications go to them, not to the PSLC directly.

Postdoctoral Positions at the PSLC
Postdoctoral candidates have two options. You can apply directly to the PSLC through the project plan submission process – more information about this process can be found on the website, www.LearnLab.org. You can also identify a faculty of interest from one our participating Departments and Institutes at Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh (see the member list on the website) and contact that faculty member directly to inquire about the possibility of joining their research team.

Faculty and Graduate Students Can Run a LearnLab In Vivo Experiment
Learning researchers worldwide are invited to submit projects for in vivo learning experiments in a LearnLab course.

Participants can run studies in one of our seven supported LearnLab courses. Two of which are in mathematics and taught at the high school level (Algebra and Geometry); two are in the sciences and taught at the college level (Physics and Chemistry). The remaining three are in the language arts and are also taught at the college level (Chinese, French, and English as a second language). For qualified individuals and organizations interested in conducting an external study, we can provide you with a detailed course curriculum as well as a description of our logging capabilities. Email pslc-submit@lists.andrew.cmu.edu for more information. Please indicate which course or courses for which you are interested in running a study. Also please briefly state your qualifications.

Faculty and Graduate Students Can Analyze Learner Data
Learning researchers worldwide are invited to submit projects to analyze data from the PSLC Data Shop.

Data from student interactions are being stored in PSLC’s Data Shop and being made available to learning researchers. The data comes primarily, but not exclusively, from online student interactions with intelligent tutoring systems and other interactive software in use one of our seven LearnLab courses (see above). Find out more by following links to the Data Shop on www.learnlab.org.

Visiting Faculty
Faculty members interested in an extended visit should contact one of the directors or a faculty member of interest.