Boston Children's Hospital
Division of Developmental Medicine

Research Scholars Program 2026

Call for Applications

The Research Scholars Program offers an intensive 2-year post-baccalaureate training experience at the intersection of research and clinical practice. Based in the Division of Developmental Medicine (DDM) at Boston Children's Hospital, the program offers an interdisciplinary environment within the Laboratories of Cognitive Neuroscience and Clinical Research Labs. Scholars hold a full-time, salaried Clinical Research Assistant position, with protected time for mentored independent projects and didactics.

Goals of the Program:

1. To promote excellence in research focused on neurotypical and neurodivergent development, leveraging the world-class research and clinical resources of Boston Children's Hospital and faculty of Harvard Medical School.
2. To train emerging leaders from a range of scientific and educational backgrounds in an interdisciplinary environment.
3. To develop translational researchers through cross-training and exposure to both cutting-edge research and clinical practice.

Scholars will be matched with research studies and mentors based on interests, experience, and study needs. Clinical Research Assistant responsibilities vary by study and will be discussed during the interview. Typical tasks include participant recruitment, data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation.

Scholars will have dedicated time for didactics and independent research, and are expected to submit their work for conference presentation and publication. Successful scholars will be well-prepared for professional training after completing the program.

Didactics and professional development opportunities include:

- Seminars by DDM faculty and staff in relevant research topics, statistical methods, data analysis, research design and development
- Training in data collection and experimental methods, which may include neuroimaging (EEG, fNIRS, MRI), eye-tracking, psychophysiological and behavioral assessments
- Experience working with children and young adults with neurodevelopmental conditions

- Writing groups and presentation skills workshops
- Participation in lab meetings, works-in-progress meetings, and journal clubs
- Regular talks offered through the Translational Neuroscience Center and the Brain, Mind, and Behavior Center
- Clinical observation and shadowing
- Professional development panels and workshops
- Individual support for graduate or medical school applications

Eligibility Requirements:

- 4-year college degree
- Demonstrated strengths in critical thinking, writing, and verbal communication
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to balance multiple priorities
- Strong interest in working with children
- Some prior research experience preferred
- Spanish fluency preferred for several positions
- Eligibility to work in the United States

Application Process:

We welcome general applications to the program that highlight the candidate's specific research interests and potential fit with our labs.

Applications must be submitted via our Research Scholars Application form, the link is provided on our Training Opportunities page.

Deadline for applications: March 16th, 2026

We will provide updated details about which labs will be accepting Scholars as that information is available. **Please check back for updated information before submitting your application.**

At this time, we anticipate having the following positions for Scholars:

- **The Nelson Lab** has an opportunity for a Scholar to work with the Early Learning and Experience: Variability in Assessment and Trajectories in Early childhood (ELEVATE) study that will be validating behavioral measures used to assess learning and development in preschoolers. The Scholar will assist with recruitment and scheduling families, collecting quantitative and qualitative behavioral data. The research project might involve investigating neural predictors recorded in infancy for these preschool cognitive and language skills. Experience with young children is

essential for this position.

- **The Arnett Lab** is seeking a Scholar to contribute to an investigation of genetic causes of ADHD in children and families. This study involves a collaboration with the Doan Lab, in the Department of Genetics and Genomics. The Scholar will collaborate with a multidisciplinary team to recruit and enroll families, collect behavioral and diagnostic data, process DNA samples, and conduct functional analyses of genetic variants. Thus, this position will span both wet lab and human subjects research.
- **The Faja Lab** has an opportunity for a Scholar - ***pending confirmation of funding*** - to participate in a clinical trial related to executive control and repetitive behaviors in autism. The Scholar will assist with biomarker and behavioral data collection and may have the opportunity to deliver intervention. Fluency in Spanish is required for this position.

Application Materials:

Please include the following materials with your application:

- CV/Resume
- Personal statement (2-page statement should highlight research interests, goals for the program, as well as ability to learn and develop new skills)

These documents must be saved in PDF format and uploaded as separate attachments. BOTH documents must be uploaded for the application to be considered complete.

Letters of Recommendation:

Please arrange for 2-3 letters of recommendation to be sent to lcn.admin@childrens.harvard.edu.

Letters should speak to the applicant's independent research potential, communication skills (written and oral), and ability to learn. The applicant's name should be included in the subject of the email as Last name, First name - Scholars Program LOR.

Letters of recommendation MUST be received by the application deadline (March 16th, 2026) or applications will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

Please contact lcn.admin@childrens.harvard.edu with questions about the program.