

If you are interested in applying as a graduate student to my lab at McMaster University, please read through this document carefully.

**Priority areas for students submitting applications in fall 2016:**

(1) I am most interested in recruiting graduate students to work in areas related to *narrative, theatre and literature*, including the general topics of language, narrative, storytelling, acting, role playing, semantics, symbolism, and the like. While I would prefer a student who has a neuroscience background, I would suffice with a cognitive background for this particular area.

(2) With regard to music, I am only looking for a student to work on music and emotion, but only from a *neuroscientific* perspective. Hence, I would need a neuroscience student for this project. I'm not doing cognitive studies on music in the coming year.

Please note that I am NOT looking for people to work on dance or visual art at the moment, as I already have people working in these areas for the coming year. I receive requests from students interested in aesthetics, but I am not currently researching that topic.

The following are three criteria that are important to me when considering graduate applicants:

**1) Course background relevant to scientific research.** I need students who have an appropriate background in the sciences, including biology, psychology, and statistics. A course background in neuroscience is recommended. If you have a purely humanities-based background with no coursework in the physical and biological sciences, I am unable to support you for a graduate degree in psychology. Likewise, if you have a degree in areas like electrical engineering or computer programming but no background in psychology or biology, I am unable to support you for a graduate degree in psychology.

**2) High undergraduate GPA.** Graduate students in my department are required to apply for external funding from federal and provincial sources each and every year. Such funding tends to go overwhelmingly to students with high GPA's. In order to serve my department well, I need students who have a good chance of obtaining external funding. Therefore, I tend to give a strong preference to students with cumulative GPA's in the A- range or higher. I will not be able to consider a student having an undergraduate GPA lower than a B. Again, an A- average or higher is recommended.

**3) Ph.D. rather than masters degree.** I am looking for students interested in a career in research. Hence, my strong preference is to supervise students eager to make the 5-year commitment for a Ph.D. in psychology. In rare circumstances, I will consider students for a 2-year masters, but my clear goal as a mentor is to train the researchers of the future.

If you feel that you meet these criteria, please send me your **resume** and a **transcript** (unofficial is fine). Please write me a paragraph about your long-term career plans and how working in my lab would support them. Please also tell me about which of the two focus-areas mentioned above interests you and what knowledge and skills you can bring to a research project in that area.