Ciências ULisboa
Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa

ERASMUS+ TRAINEESHIP / PLACEMENT OFFER

Project title: The Neurobiology of Social Cognition

Project description:

KEYWORDS Oxytocin, dopamine, genetics, neuropharmacology, neuroimaging, cognitive empathy, theory-of-mind, trust, cooperation, reward, reinforcement learning, emotion recognition, schizophrenia
CONTEXT Understanding the neurochemistry and circuitry mediating social cognition is key to treat a large range of neuropsychiatric disorders – as social deficits are often present at their origin and often do not subside with treatment. Working out what others think, intend and feel (i.e. cognitive empathy or theory-of-mind) is essential for optimal communication and cooperation and is dysfunctional in schizophrenia, personality disorders and autism, among others. We are characterizing what molecules and brain pathways are involved in social cognition, for example: how does oxytocin promote cognitive empathy? Where does it act? What effect does it have in brain and our function? How does it interact with other neurotransmitter systems?
TOOLS We will study healthy humans and patients with structural and functional neuroimaging (MRI, DTI and MRS), double blind placebo-controlled pharmacological and TMS administration, psychological testing, social cognition tasks, eye-tracking, pupilometry, skin conductance, EEG, DNA testing and computational modelling. We use mainly MATLAB, SPSS, SPM, EEGLab, among other software
COLLABORATION King's College London (UK), Emory Uni (USA), IST (PT), ISCTE (PT), FPUL (PT), Champalimaud Neuroscience (PT), ISPA (PT), Netherlands Inst. for Neuroscience (NL)

Department: Physics

R&D Unit: IBEB (FCUL) - Biomedical Neuroscience Lab

Field of study: Biomedical and Cognitive Neuroscience

Supervisor: Diana Prata **Personal webpage:** https://dpratalab.wordpress.com/

Number of weeks offered: 24 **Within the months:** from October to July

Number of working hours per week: 35

Publication date: 14 / 10 / 2019 **Closing date:** 31 / 01 / 2020

Requirements

General:

- A very good academic record;
- Good writing and presentation skills;
- Good social and organisational skills;
- Very good proficiency in spoken and written English; knowledge of Portuguese language is an asset.

Specific:

- Level of education: Bachelor's or Master's degree in Neuroscience, Psychology, Medicine;
- Biomedical Engineering, Data Science, Statistics or IT;
- _____.

Applications

Applications should include the following information:

- a cover letter, including a description of your research interests and an explanation for why you are applying for this project;
- a curriculum vitae (CV);
- an official transcript of grades issued by your home institution;

and be submitted no later than 31 / 01 / 2020 via email to internacional@ciencias.ulisboa.pt.

Contacts

For inquiries regarding this project you are welcome to contact: diana.prata@ciencias.ulisboa.pt.

For inquiries regarding the application procedure you are welcome to contact: internacional@ciencias.ulisboa.pt.