Research Internship in Psychology I & II (PSYC2072 and PSYC2073)

Objectives
The internship aims at engaging students in research to prepare them better for their thesis projects. More generally, this internship is designed to offer students an opportunity to observe scientific research up close and gain hands-on research experience by working as a member in an active research team. Internship I and II can be done with the same supervisor or two different supervisors. No lectures will be given. Interns are expected to attend and actively participate in lab/supervision meetings.

Course Content and Topics
Course content and topics vary across research labs. In general, they should cover:
1. Application of psychological theories, prior research, and pilot data to research design in studying ill-defined problems in everyday life.
2. How to conduct research in a professional, responsible, and ethical manner.
3. Hands-on experience in implementing research studies such as preparation of research materials, data collection, processing, and coding.

Course Learning Outcomes
On completing the course, students will be able to:
1. critically evaluate psychological research methodology.
2. implement research designs.
3. understand how to apply psychological theories and concepts to research design to study ill-defined problems in everyday life.
4. conduct research in a responsible and ethical manner and critically evaluate the ethical soundness of a psychological research study.
5. critically evaluate their own assumptions and biases in conducting research including collecting and coding data.

Required/Recommended Readings and Online Materials
Readings relevant to the research projects that the interns are involved in will be assigned on an ad hoc basis. Readings and online materials are subjected to individual supervisor’s recommendation / requirement.

Assessment
Each intern will be graded by the supervisor on performance as a research assistant (10 to 12 hours per week), participation and contribution in lab or supervision meetings, and quality of internship report. The internship report will be a 6- to 10-page double-spaced paper. It should include a discussion of theories and empirical research relevant to the projects that the intern has worked on (based on assigned readings), what the intern has done and learned in the projects, what the challenges were, and how they were dealt with. Suggested weightings for performance as a research assistant, participation in lab/supervision meetings, and internship report are 50:20:30.
Application Procedure

1. For research internship opportunities offered by lecturers, please click the lecturer’s name “https://www.psychology.hku.hk/?page_id=144” and read the details under “Research Internship Opportunities”.

Select the research project which you are interested in, and contact the lecturer for further information.

2. Fill in the application form (here) and return it to the General Office of the Psychology Department before the deadline. The form should be endorsed by the lecturer or attached with an email confirmation of acceptance.

3. Enroll the course(s) through Student Portal.