

APD 1210 RESEARCH PRACTICUM COURSE – FALL/WINTER

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS 2025-2026

NAME AND TITLE: Professor Esther Geva.

TITLE OF RESEARCH PROJECT: Parenting and Perception: A Cross-Cultural Study of Learning Disability Beliefs in Pakistani and Pakistani Canadian Communities

NUMBER OF STUDENT PLACES AVAILABLE: 1-2

PRIMARY MODE OF RESEARCH PLACEMENT PARTICIPATION (circle one option and describe):

☐ IN PERSON ☐ REMOTE (ONLINE) ☒ HYBRID/FLEXIBLE

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:

The objective of this project is to understand Pakistani parental beliefs and perspectives regarding learning disabilities. Specifically, we are interested in how the beliefs of Pakistani immigrant parents differ from those of Pakistani parents concerning learning disabilities. This study aims to explore how factors such as immigration, acculturation, and stigma influence parental perceptions and decisions. We will examine these elements through interviews and by including brief scenarios presented to parents via open-ended responses and closed-ended questions.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION:

We seek students with a strong interest in Learning Disabilities, as well as excellent interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills. The successful applicant will be involved in a wide range of activities in the ELL Lab and will be committed to enhancing their research abilities, and will play an important role as a Research Assistant in the project. Duties may include conducting literature reviews, assisting in participant recruitment and testing, interviewing and analyzing data using statistical software. The students will work under the guidance of Dr. Esther Geva and have the chance to collaborate closely with fellow lab members. Students will also develop their own research topic and present their findings during a scheduled lab meeting. Additionally, students are expected to attend and engage in bi-weekly lab meetings on dates decided by all lab members.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SKILLS/BACKGROUND (OPTIONAL):

Students should have experience conducting literature reviews in psychology databases and have strong writing and communication skills. Students should ideally be from a South Asian background, and fluency in either Urdu or Hindi is preferred. An enthusiasm for working in a collaborative team setting is essential.

DAY AND TIMES OF LAB MEETINGS: Lab meetings will be held bi-weekly on a date decided by all lab members.