



Announcement for Doctoral Student Assistantship

Fall 2026 • Ann Arbor, MI



Dr. Leah E. Robinson, professor and director of the [Child Movement, Activity & Developmental Health \(CMAH\) Lab](#) in the School of Kinesiology at the University of Michigan, is currently seeking a motivated doctoral student to work on research that takes a developmental perspective to motor skill acquisition, physical activity, and physical health and development in pediatric populations starting fall 2026.

Faculty Bio and Research Focus

Dr. Robinson's research focuses on advancing the understanding of how children develop motor competence and confidence, which are essential for leading healthy, active lives. She has secured over \$20+ million in extramural funding from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Education, American Diabetes Association, Meta Platforms, etc. The student will research motor skills, physical activity, and developmental health outcomes in children and youth.

Assistantship Information

This graduate assistantship offers a stipend, tuition support, and healthcare for the fall, winter, and spring/summer terms (stipend only). It is renewable for three subsequent years, contingent upon satisfactory performance, for a total of four years of funding. **Applications open on September 1, 2025, and are accepted on a rolling basis until December 1, 2025.**

Preferred Applicant's Experience and Qualifications

To be considered for the position, you will need: 1) a master's degree in kinesiology, exercise science, public health, or other movement/health-related field, and 2) competitive GPA in previous academic work. Previous research or teaching experience, and/or publications in motor development, physical activity, or related areas, as well as prior experience in motor and physical activity assessments, are highly desirable. **The ideal candidate should have strong analytical and problem-solving skills, thrive in both team and individual environments, have strong organizational and communication skills, and maintain a high degree of accountability.** Please email the following documents (cover letter stating your research interests, goals, and previous experiences, current CV, writing samples, and contact information of 3 references) in a single combined PDF to lerobin@umich.edu with the subject line "PhD position fall 2026."

Application Information

Students will need to gain admittance to the University of Michigan School of Kinesiology's doctoral program. For more information on applying to the School of Kinesiology, please visit our [website](#). Sign up [here](#) for an upcoming prospective student open House (virtual and in person). Sign up [here](#) to join our mailing list.

If you have additional questions, please contact Charlene Ruloff at kingradcomm@umich.edu.