MA or PhD Level Funded Graduate Student Position, Department of Linguistics, U of Manitoba

Start Date: Fall 2016

The Baby Language Lab at the University of Manitoba (Psychology), in conjunction with the Department of Linguistics, is looking for a self-motivated graduate student with strong people skills and linguistics training, ideally with experience in script-based data analysis, to contribute to a SSHRC-funded project examining the linguistic and paralinguistic properties of real-world child language environments and their impact on infant language development. The student would receive a graduate fellowship of $17,500/year for two years (MA) or $21,000/year for up to four year (PhD). Fellowship is dependent upon successful admission to the Department of Linguistics graduate program at the U of Manitoba. The position is a joint venture between the departments of Linguistics and Psychology.

The project, headed by Dr. Melanie Soderstrom, builds on the Baby Language Lab’s existing database of recordings of children’s daylong, real-world language experiences at home and in child care using the LENA™ system. The graduate student would work closely with Dr. Soderstrom to develop procedures for analysis of the audio and derivative data (e.g. transcripts, XML formatted speaker segments) using existing tools such as LENA Pro, CLAN and Praat. There are significant opportunities for novel analyses of the existing datasets and/or collection of a new sub-corpus of recordings which could be developed into a thesis project. The laboratory has ties through the Daylong Audio Recording of Child Language Environments (DARCLE) research network with researchers elsewhere in Canada, the United States and Europe, and ongoing research ties may provide opportunities for travel to Paris.

Qualifications:

- Strong interpersonal qualities (required)
- A completed honours-level B.A. or B.S. in psychology, linguistics or a related field (required)
- Experience working with child research participants (desired)
- Experience with script-based data analysis (desired)
- Experience with CLAN, Praat, Phon, Matlab and/or Perl (desired)

Deadline for applications to the graduate program is January 15th – contact Dr. Soderstrom (M_Soderstrom@umanitoba.ca) well in advance to discuss your application prior to submission.

Both MA and PhD applicants will be considered. Apply through the Faculty of Graduate Studies (http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/admissions/index.html) to the Department of Linguistics. For more information on the application process, contact Dr. Erin Wilkinson (erin.wilkinson@umanitoba.ca), Department of Linguistics Graduate Program Chair.