

# Physical Activity & Neuroscience – PhD position with fellowship



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## PhD position

We are seeking a highly motivated Master's student with a clinical background (e.g., physiotherapist, kinesiologist, nurse, occupational-therapist) for a PhD position under the supervision of Dr Matthieu Boisgontier (<http://matthieuboisgontier.com>), senior scientist at the the Bruyère Research Institute (<https://www.bruyere.org/en/bruyere-research-institute>) and professor at the University of Ottawa. A competitive fellowship will be provided by the supervisor. Students with an admission average of 8/10 or higher and register full-time without interruption for the duration of the scholarship (12 consecutive terms) are entitled to an admission scholarship (<https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/awards/admission-scholarship>).

## PhD topic

Most individuals are aware of the health benefits of regular physical activity and have good intentions to exercise. Yet, 1.4 billion people worldwide are inactive, which suggests that turning intention into action can be challenging. Recent findings show that the intention-action gap could be explained by negative automatic reactions to stimuli associated with physical activity. To promote physical activity, the current project proposes to understand and retrain the automatic reactions to physical activity and sedentary stimuli.

## Responsibilities

- Conceive and design studies in neuroscientific and clinical research.
- Interact with the Research Ethics Board and Principal Investigator.
- Interact with patients, clinicians, researchers, and other partners.
- Recruit participants, collect data, analyze data, write articles.
- Opportunity to supervise other students.
- Present work at national and international conferences.
- Teach at the undergraduate level.

## Qualifications

- Master student graduating before September 2021.
- Strong analytical, problem solving, and leadership capabilities.
- Ability to contribute and work effectively in a fast-paced, multidisciplinary environment.
- Clinical experience in physiotherapy, kinesiology, or related fields would be an asset.
- Computer programming skills would be an asset.

## Preferred starting date

September 1, 2021.

## Location: Ottawa, Ontario

With an international reputation for success, the **University of Ottawa** ranks as one of Canada's top research-intensive universities and provides a dynamic and stimulating environment for approximately 40,000 students and 5,500 employees where research and knowledge are fundamental to all aspects of university life. Its geographic location in the national capital, adjacent to a number of national agencies such as Health Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Statistics Canada, and other government agencies, offers multiple opportunities for partnerships, training collaboration, and research.

The **Faculty of Health Sciences** is comprised of five academic units: Nursing, Nutrition Sciences, Rehabilitation Sciences, Human Kinetics, and the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences. The Faculty excels in its research endeavours thanks to the efforts of over 115 researchers working in a variety of disciplines.

## Doctorate in Philosophy Rehabilitation Sciences

This doctorate prepares candidates from both professional and research backgrounds for a career involving research in rehabilitation sciences, including issues ranging from basic science questions to psychosocial repercussions of health conditions in a rehabilitation context. PhD graduates will develop independent and collaborative research skills and will be equipped to contribute to the knowledge base that informs the practice of rehabilitation professionals. (<https://catalogue.uottawa.ca/en/graduate/doctorate-philosophy-rehabilitation-sciences/>)

## Application

Interested applicants should email the following material to [matthieu.boisgontier@uottawa.ca](mailto:matthieu.boisgontier@uottawa.ca):

- Curriculum vitae
- Cover letter