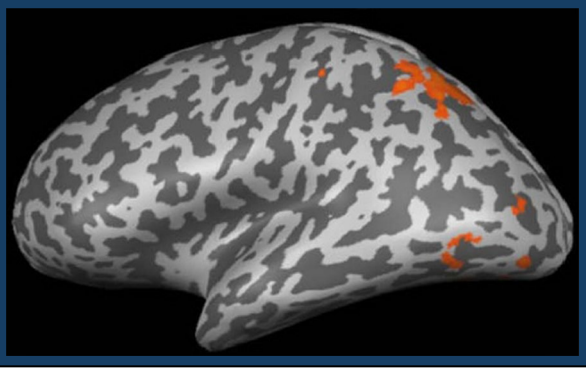
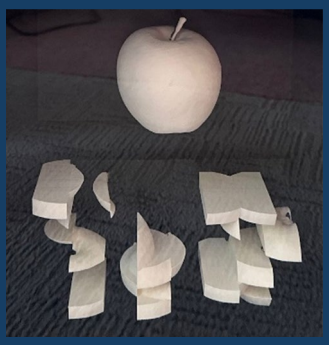
Undergraduate / Recent Graduate Research Assistant (Paid)

Walsh-Snow Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Utah





About the project

We study how the brain represents real-world objects in adults, children, and individuals with focal brain damage. This NIH-funded project uses **fMRI** to compare responses to **tangible objects** versus **2D/3D images** of those objects.

What you'll do

Help create the **high-quality object stimuli** used inside the MRI scanner:

- Build two stimulus sets: **3D-printed objects** and **real-world objects** mounted on non-ferrous back-plates (MRI-safe)
- Prepare **printed 2D photos** plus **digital 2D and 3D images** of each object
- Label, track, and quality-check stimuli; assist with scanner turntable setup

Training provided. No prior lab experience with fMRI or 3D printing required—just care, creativity, and reliability

Why this role is great for students

- Hands-on making + neuroscience in one job
- Learn practical skills (fabrication basics, imaging prep, stimulus design, data organization, MRI safety)
- Flexible scheduling around classes
- Strong preparation for grad school or research tech roles

Who should apply

- **UU undergraduates or recent graduates** (current grad students also welcome)
- Detail-oriented, organized, and comfortable with careful hands-on work
- Bonus (not required): experience with crafting/maker work, photography, or basic coding

Time & pay

- **Paid position**, up to **3–5 days/week** during **Fall 2025** (role can be split between students)
- Start date: **immediate** (rolling review) to begin training and early build tasks
- Compensation **commensurate with experience/expertise**

How to apply

Email **Professor Jacqueline Walsh-Snow** (**snow@utah.edu**) with subject line **"Application for RA position."** Include, as a single PDF:

1. Brief paragraph on your background and how your coursework/skills fit
2. CV
3. Names and contact info for **1–3 references**
   (Optional: a few photos or a link to any builds, art, or projects—totally fine if you don't have these)