United Nations Intern Application Form - Entry #2772

Your First Name

Kavya

Your Last Name

Jhaveri

Your Email

kj2670@tc.columbia.edu

Your Phone Number (with country code)

(814) 502-4346

Please indicate your current educational institution and year of graduate study (e.g. 1st year, 2nd year, postdoc, etc)

1st year MA in Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University

Please describe your field of study

I'm currently a first-year master's student in Clinical Psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University, with a focus on neuropsychology. My work revolves around understanding how cognitive and behavioral processes impact mental health, particularly in neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer's and underserved populations.

I've always been fascinated by the connections between the brain, behavior, and culture. This curiosity led me to pursue a degree in Psychology at Penn State, where I also studied Neuroscience and Mathematics. Over the years, I've gained hands-on experience in research, from conducting neuropsychological testing to analyzing data for studies on memory, cognition, and

What excites me most about this field is its potential to improve lives on a global scale, especially in promoting mental health across diverse populations. I'm drawn to opportunities where I can combine my passion for science with my commitment to making a broader impact—something I see as deeply connected to the goals of the International Council of Psychologists.

Please describe your interest in serving as an ICP UN Intern. PLease include any experience with global issues as defined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or international experience. You may write your answer here or upload a separate word or PDF document.

I'm excited about the opportunity to serve as an ICP UN Intern because it aligns with my passion for addressing global mental health disparities and advocating for underserved populations. Through my work in neuropsychology, I've had the privilege of contributing to two major research projects that highlight the struggles faced by groups often overlooked in medical care—older women and individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

In one project, I'm studying the cognitive and emotional challenges women face during and after menopause, focusing on how these experiences negatively impact memory, mood, and neurological health. Menopause is often dismissed or misunderstood, and I've seen how this lack of attention can significantly affect women's quality of life and mental well-being, making them doubt their own judgement.

In the second project, I'm examining how access to higher education influences neurological health later in life, particularly in underserved populations. My work with a lower socioeconomic community in India has been eye-opening. Many participants had never attended school, and almost none had completed high school. These individuals often face significant barriers, from not being taken seriously when reporting symptoms to lacking the resources to recognize when something is wrong. These experiences have shown me how deeply health disparities are tied to systemic inequities in education and access to care.

Being involved in these projects has reinforced my commitment to addressing global issues like gender equality (SDG 5), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and good health and well-being (SDG 3). This internship would allow me to contribute to these goals on a broader scale, while learning how psychology can be used to create meaningful change. I'm particularly drawn to the idea of working with the UN to better understand how psychology can play a role in tackling issues like health inequalities, education access, and gender equity. This is the kind of work that inspires me, and I'd love the chance to contribute while also learning from others who share a similar drive to make a difference.

Upload the Your CV

📄 Kavya-Jhaveri-CV.pdf

Name and Email of Faculty Member who will provide a letter of recommendation for this activity

Dr. Victoria Leavitt; vl2337@cumc.columbia.edu

[International Council of Psychologists](#)

Victoria M. Leavitt, Ph.D., FAAN
Associate Professor of Neuropsychology
Department of Neurology
Columbia University Irving Medical Center
630 W. 168th Street
New York, NY 10032
VL2337@cumc.columbia.edu

January 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my highest level of support for Kavya Jhaveri as a candidate for the ICP internship. Kavya is an unusually motivated, responsible, diligent, and reliable individual who approaches projects with an impressive degree of competence. I have absolutely no doubt that she will bring these outstanding qualifications to any challenge she pursues.

Kavya presented herself as a candidate volunteer in my lab last summer, and began working with us in the fall. She quickly became indispensable, acquiring skills necessary for cleaning and analyzing data in ongoing projects and then rapidly transitioning to new projects, which she initiated and drove forward. As an example, she spent her winter break collecting data from over 90 adults in her home country of India for a study my lab is conducting to establish a digital biomarker of cognitive decline in diverse populations. Due to Kavya's diligence, we now possess an extraordinarily unique set of data from people with low education from rural settings. These data will be used to support a publication and a large-scale NIH grant. I am very fortunate to have found Kavya.

Kavya is an excellent worker with a solid work ethic and excellent team skills. She has adapted to the environment and set herself efficiently to all tasks I gave her. She has excellent diplomacy, cultural sensitivity, listening, writing, and analytic skills. Another strength that Kavya possesses is her ability to work independently. She is the type of person who does not simply do what is asked of her but goes above and beyond, putting in place new and more efficient systems of data capture that I had not thought of. This has made her an incredible asset to my lab.

On a personal note, Kavya is delightful. She is consistently respectful, appropriate, and professional. I would easily rank her in the top 1% of all mentees I have supervised of several dozen total.

I unreservedly recommend Kavya Jhaveri for your internship. She will be an asset to any team lucky enough to welcome her. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

Victoria M. Leavitt, PhD, FAAN
Associate Professor of Neuropsychology

KAVYA MANISH JHAVERI

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EDUCATION

Teachers College, Columbia University   New York, NY
Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology (Formally: Psychology in Education)   Expected: May 2026
Neuropsychology Track   GPA: 4.0/4.0

The Pennsylvania State University   University Park, PA
Bachelor of Science in Psychology, *Neuroscience Option*   May 2023
Minors: Mathematics and Neuroscience   GPA: 3.67/4, Dean's List (7/8 semesters)
Relevant Coursework

Functional and Integrative Neuroscience	Physiological Psychology
Neurobiology	Mammalian Physiology Introduction
Clinical Neuropsychology	to Clinical Psychology

RESEARCH and CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, Dept. of Neurology, PI: Dr. Stephanie Cosentino   New York, NY
Research Assistant   September 2024 – Present

- Recruited participants and conducted **neuropsychological testing** for the EMPOWER (Evaluating Memory as Part of Women's Routine Care) study, focusing on women aged 45+ during their annual gynecological visit
- Administered **cognitive assessments** and SCoPE, including evaluations of executive functioning, spatial abilities, and memory (delayed and immediate recall) to assess cognitive decline and memory issues
- Participated in weekly lab meetings to discuss the EMPOWER study, collaborating with a team of 8 people
- Participated in weekly **Alzheimer's Disease Research Center meetings** with leading neuropsychologists and neurologists, reviewing patient cases to assess neuropsychology battery scores, brain imaging, and current symptoms to decide a diagnosis and discuss treatment options
- Observed and participated in adult and pediatric **brain cuttings** with neuropathologists to understand gross and local neuroanatomy

New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, Dept. of Neurology, PI: Dr. Victoria Leavitt   New York, NY
Research Assistant   September 2024 – Present

- **Reviewed and analyzed literature** on **digital Alzheimer's disease assessments** to identify gaps in early preclinical diagnosis methods and contributed to ongoing project discussions through weekly review meetings with the PI
- **Collected cross-cultural cognitive data** from the Indian population, studying the impact of demographic factors on learning and memory tasks via digital cognitive tests, while facilitating participant understanding and ensuring accurate data collection
- Conducted **statistical analyses (SPSS)** to evaluate correlations between thermal sensation and ear temperature in Multiple Sclerosis patients during exercise; **visualized data** through graphs, regression analysis, and ANOVA to assess the impact of temperature changes on pain tolerance

Baker Health, Dr. Iyad Baker   Jersey City, NJ
Medical Scribe   September 2023 – April 2024

- Supported patients dealing with a wide spectrum of neurological conditions, including neurodegenerative diseases, traumatic brain injuries (TBI), strokes, and migraines
- Efficiently managing a caseload of up to 50 patients daily, proficiently documenting patient histories, and treatment plans using **Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems**
- Engaging closely with a multidisciplinary team of physicians to assess symptoms, prescribe medications, and formulate comprehensive treatment strategies for neurology patients
- Performing regular patient assessments, including diagnostic tests, monitoring pharmacological prognosis, and establishing relationships with patients

Penn State University, Brain and Behavioral Dynamics Lab, PI: Dr. Rick Gilmore   University Park, PA
Research Assistant   August 2021 – May 2023

- Conducted research on open science principles and their application in cognitive and developmental psychology
- Evaluated statistical representation, language proficiency, and comprehensiveness of information in 50+ published research papers; implemented targeted revisions and optimizations to ensure data integrity, enhance readability, and improve overall quality, leading to enhanced industry reputation and increased citations
- Utilized **R programming** language for data analysis to build beginner level datasets, and **Microsoft Excel** for cleaning and organizing data from **Databrary**, a data repository
- Collaborated with a team of undergraduate research assistants to collect, clean, and refine Databrary data, ensuring relevance and adherence to open science requirements

G.I.P.S. Psychiatric Clinic and De-Addiction Centre   Ahmedabad, India
Clinical Intern   May 2022 – July 2022
- Performed diagnostic interviews of up to 10 patients daily, and administered and analyzed psychological tests such as **Rorschach inkblot, Thematic Apperception Test (TAT), Children's Apperception Test (CAT), M-CHAT, Vanderbilt ADHD Diagnostic Rating Scale, and Vineland Social Maturity Scale (VSMS)**
- Shadowed therapy sessions, gaining comprehensive knowledge of treatment approaches and medication management, and assisted in diagnosis of psychotic disorders, personality disorders, learning disabilities and addiction issues
- Partnered with a multidisciplinary team of 8 psychiatrists and four psychologists, contributing to case discussions and treatment planning, and worked with a diverse patient population from ages 3 – 65 years
- Attended weekly workshops led by a psychiatrist, enhancing understanding of clinical applications, therapy techniques, psychopharmacology, and neuropsychology

Tangram – Tracking the Human Mind, PI: Dr. Nimrat Singh   Ahmedabad, India
Clinical Intern   July 2021 – August 2021
- Participated in case discussions, analyzing symptoms, proposing diagnoses, and formulating treatment plans
- Acquired skills in conducting Mental Status Examination (MSE) and identifying disorders using ICD-10 and DSM-5
- Explored different styles of psychotherapy, understanding their nuances and methods of administration

Ahmedabad University, PI: Dr. Ramadhar Singh   Ahmedabad, India
Research Assistant   June 2021 – July 2021
- Critically analyzed published research papers in social and developmental psychology
- Compiled annotated bibliographies on goals and selective attention, mediators of physical attractiveness in different relationships, attraction in helping behavior, and cognition and emotion
- Contributed to conference presentations by editing them for clarity and coherence, and collected and meticulously organized data from research papers, specifically focusing on the importance of altruism within romantic relationship

Penn State University, Dept. of Biology, PI: Dr. Cairsty Depasquale   Altoona, PA
Research Assistant   January 2021 – December 2021
- Observed and documented exercise and movement patterns in Zebrafish, coding over 600 hours of data
- Employed **BORIS software** to conduct behavioral coding through the annotation of recorded fish tank behavior
- Systematically collected and processed data on multiple parameters, with a focus on exploratory behavior patterns

PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

Depasquale C, Franklin K, Jia Z, **Jhaveri K** and Buderman FE (2022) The effects of exploratory behavior on physical activity in a common animal model of human disease, zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). *Front. Behav. Neurosci.* 16:1020837. doi: 10.3389/fnbeh.2022.1020837

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Teachers College, Muslim Students Association   New York, NY
Secretary   September 2024 – Present
- Managed organizational communications, including meeting minutes, and correspondence, ensuring timely and efficient flow of information among members and other Teachers College administrative offices
- Coordinated event logistics and planned fundraising initiatives, helping drive member engagement and successful execution

Teachers College, Graduate Journal of Psychology   New York, NY
Peer Reviewer   September 2024 - Present
- Evaluated and provided constructive feedback on submitted manuscripts, ensuring adherence to journal standards and contributing to the integrity and quality of published research in psychology
- Collaborated with the authors to refine their work, enhancing clarity and coherence while maintaining rigorous academic standards and supporting the advancement of emerging scholars in the field

Penn State Learning   University Park, PA
Peer Writing Tutor   September 2020 – May 2023
- Peer reviewed and educated 6-8 students per week on written assignments for various Penn State classes
- Empowered peers to enhance their holistic writing skills by fostering idea expansion and facilitating in-depth discussions

Penn State Dance Marathon (THON), Dancer Relations   University Park, PA
Committee Member, Second-in-command   September 2021 – May 2022, September 2022 – May 2023
- Ensured that dancers have all relevant resources, including medical services, to help them stand constantly for 46 hours during THON weekend
- Liaised efficiently with 25 fellow committee members, and 600 dance relations teammates

Penn State University, Clinical Neuropsychology, Dr. Joyce Furfaro   University Park, PA
Teaching Assistant   January 2022 – May 2022
- Assisted the graduate TA to set up exam review sessions and grade class presentations for a 30-person class.
- Taught a lecture on Parkinson's Disease, designing curriculum from instructor slides and personal research

Penn State University, Hard Freight Magazine   Altoona, PA
Editor-in-Chief   January 2021 – May 2021
- Compiled Hard Freight, the on-campus literary magazine, by screening student and faculty submissions for quality content and providing necessary editing
- Organized our virtual café, where people read their work and create an atmosphere for promoting art

Penn State University, Collegiate Review   Altoona, PA
Student Journalist   January 2021-May 2021
- Produced relatable written content targeting students for publication in the campus newspaper
- Conducted interviews with counselors to enhance student mental health and improve college lifestyle

Global Penn State   Remote
Orientation Leader   May 2020 – August 2020
- Acted as a resource and point of contact for international students, providing counseling and guidance in their transition
- Collaborated with 70 international counsellors from Commonwealth campuses for training purposes

Penn State University, Campus Activities Board   Altoona, PA
Treasurer   January 2020 – May 2020
- Effectively managed financial records by monitoring expenses and tracking incoming funds
- Cooperated with team members to generate event ideas and actively participated in the planning and process

WORK EXPERIENCE
Columbia University, Department of Physical Education and Recreation, Dodge Fitness Center   New York, NY
Fitness Attendant   November 2024 – Present
- Managed fitness equipment, re-racked weights, and maintained the functionality of fitness spaces
- Delivered exceptional customer service while collaborating with a team and efficiently executing emergency response
- Ensured the safety of members by monitoring fitness areas and maintaining a clean, organized environment

Penn State Recreation, IM Building   University Park, PA
Building Supervisor   August 2022 – May 2023
- Supervised 100 Facility Attendants, and contributed to their hiring and training
- Performed all work in cooperation with professional staff in accordance with department policies and procedure
- Demonstrated leadership skills by effectively resolving problems, managing emergencies, and ensuring compliance

Penn State Recreation, IM Building   University Park, PA
Facility Attendant   August 2021 – May 2022
- Maintained facility safety by conducting regular rotations and promptly identifying and addressing any facility issues
- Delivered exceptional customer service while working as a team, and played a key role in executing emergency responses

Penn State Altoona, Port Sky Café   Altoona, PA
Food Service Worker   November 2019 – May 2021
- Ensured timely order processing and prioritized customer satisfaction by exceptional service and high-quality products
- Received training on the Starbucks operating model, gaining proficiency in a wide range of coffee specialties

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS
Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology   2021 – Present
American Psychological Association   2024 – Present

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS
Languages: Gujarati [fluent], Hindi [fluent], Urdu [fluent], English [fluent]
Tech Skills: R language, BORIS software, SPSS, MATLAB
Certifications:
CITI: Biomedical Human Subjects Research (IRB)   September 2024
CITI: Social and Behavioral Human Subjects Research (IRB)   September 2024
CITI: FDA-Regulated Human Subjects Research   September 2024
CITI: Good Clinical Practice with Investigational Drugs and Medical Devices (U.S. FDA Focus)   September 2024