

**COST action BM 1004 - Enhancing the Scientific Study of Early Autism (ESSEA)
Call for applications for the Training School – 2012**

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition with high morbidity and cost for the individual, their family and society. COST Action BM 1004 – Enhancing the Scientific Study of Early Autism (ESSEA) aims at fostering an interdisciplinary scientific network to advance the pace of discovery about the earliest signs of autism, combining techniques from cognitive neurosciences with clinical sciences and to establish European practice guidelines on early identification and intervention.

The Management Committee (MC) for COST action BM 1004 is pleased to open its call for applications for the 2012 Training School on novel technologies in early autism research.

Training Schools within the framework of the Action topic are aimed at i) Widening the knowledge of the Action activities, ii) Providing intensive training on a new and emerging subject, and iii) Offering familiarization with unique equipment or know-how in one of the laboratories of the Action. Training Schools are not intended to provide general training or education. Those attending a Training School are typically – but not exclusively – young researchers from across Europe. Furthermore, Training Schools may also cover appropriate re-training as part of life-long learning. The financial support is a contribution to the costs of participation at a Training School and may not necessarily cover all the costs in each case. The grant should normally cover only travel and subsistence. The financial contribution for Training School participation will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request and the evaluation of the application by the Training School assessment committee.

The ESSEA 2012 Training School will take place in the Uppsala Babylab (www.babylab.se), Uppsala University, Sweden, between October 1st and October 5th. The Training School will focus on the following methodologies: eye-tracking; EEG/ERP; NIRS. The first two days (Monday, Tuesday) of the Training School will consist of general lectures by prominent international researchers. Possibility for trainees to present and discuss their own research will also be given. During the last three days (Wednesday-Friday), trainees will participate in a workshop on the above methods.

Confirmed speakers and/or trainers:

- Scott Johnson. Professor, and Director of the UCLA Babylab
- Katarzyna Chawarska. Associate Professor in the Yale Child Study Center; Director, Toddler Developmental Disabilities Clinic
- Jukka Leppänen. Researcher at the Human Information processing Lab, Dep Psychology, University of Tampere, Finland

- Sarah Lloyd Fox. Researcher at the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck, University of London
- Gustaf Gredebäck. Professor, and Director of the Uppsala Babylab.

Applicants should be engaged in a program of research as a postgraduate/PhD student or postdoctoral fellow or be employed in an institution actively participating in COST Action BM1004.

Applicants must send a Cover Letter containing the following information:

1. Name of home institution(s)
2. Personal motivation for participation in the Training School
3. Relevance of your participation for ESSEA
4. Previous experience with eye-tracking, EEG/ERP, or NIRS methodology
5. List of publications/presentations based on any of these method(s)
6. Implementation strategy of (one of) the methodologies at your institution (including available resources in terms of equipment and funding)
7. Other information of direct relevance for your application

Please structure your Cover Letter according to these points, and write as concisely as possible.

The applications will be evaluated by the Training School Committee. The Committee will take into particular consideration the degree to which the applicant has a clear and realistic plan regarding on how the knowledge and skills acquired during the Training School will be translated into research relevant for ESSEA. It is advantageous if the applicant has some experience with at least one of the methods, and that her/his research group has the necessary resources for conducting eye-tracking, EEG/ERP or NIRS studies.

We will accept a maximum of 2 trainees from the same lab. We will be mindful of geographical equity throughout the process.

In addition to the Cover Letter, please provide a full CV, a full publication list, and (if applicable) a confirmation by PI (or equivalent) regarding resources (equipment, funding). All materials should be sent by the Applicant electronically (by e-mail as attachment) to the Organizer of the Training School (terje.falck-ytter@psyk.uu.se), and the MC Chair (t.charman@ioe.ac.uk) no later than the **25th of March, 2012**. You should receive a confirmation that we have received your application within one day after your submission.

Please name all files adequately, e.g. "yourlastname_coverletter.doc".

The applicant will be informed about the outcome of the evaluation and level of funding by April 15th, 2012.

Instructions and guidance can be found on page 35 of the COST *Vademecum* (Part B):
<http://www.cost.esf.org/participate/guidelines>.

Best regards,

Terje Falck-Ytter (Training School Organizer)

Marie Gomot, Terje Falck-Ytter, and Astrid Vicente (Training School Committee Members)