

**Funded PhD student position  
in Autism and Language at Michigan State University**

Applications are invited for a funded PhD position in Communicative Sciences and Disorders at Michigan State University. The position will likely begin in Fall 2020 (though start date is flexible) and will be under the mentorship of Dr. Courtney Venker, a speech-language pathologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders.

Dr. Venker directs the Lingo Lab (<https://lingolab.msu.edu/>), an active research lab focused on language development in children with autism. One line of work (supported by NIH [R21 DC016102](#)) investigates how children with autism use auditory and visual information to learn the meanings of words. Another line of work investigates the most beneficial ways for adults to simplify their speech when talking to young children with language delays, including those with autism. The lab uses a variety of methods, including experimental eye-tracking tasks, behavioral coding of parent-child interactions, standardized language and cognitive assessments, and survey methodology. The ultimate goal of this research is to understand how to best support language development in children with language-learning difficulties.



**College of  
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Arts & Sciences**

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Michigan State University is home to the Center for Research in Autism, Intellectual, and other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (C-RAIN) and offers unique opportunities for co-mentorship from faculty in Psychology, Education, Communication, Linguistics, and Human Development and Family Studies.

The ideal candidate will be a bright, curious, committed student with a strong academic record and research-oriented career goals.

**Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders, Psychology, Education, Linguistics, or a related discipline
- Prior research experience
- Experience (and interest) in interacting with young children
- Master's degree and clinical certification in speech-language pathology (CCC-SLP) are preferred but not required

**To Apply:** Email Dr. Venker at [cvenker@msu.edu](mailto:cvenker@msu.edu), with "PhD Student Position" in the subject line. Please include:

- Resume/CV
- Cover letter (no longer than 1 page) describing relevant skills and experiences and long-term career goals
- Names of 3 academic and/or clinical professionals who can speak to the applicant's potential for success in the program