



Research Consultant MIT Playful Journey Lab

The [Playful Journey Lab](#) within MIT Open Learning focuses on developing playful ways to support future-ready skills through innovative assessment and learning designs. Through its partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Graduate School of Teaching and Learning (WWGSTL)—a new competency-based teacher education program now in its second year—members of the Playful Journey Lab are working to research and design new ways of teaching teachers. One of the current areas of research and design is around ensuring alignment of the WWGSTL curriculum with the assessed competencies. The Research Consultant will contribute to the current alignment work around the competency of “Grounding Practice in the Science of Learning and Development.”

First Deliverable: Using the Science of Learning and Development framework from Darling-Hammond, Flook, Cook-Harvey, Barron & Osher (2019) as a starting point, the Research Consultant will conduct an overview of reviews to determine: What findings from the science of learning and development are most important for a novice teacher to know? The overview will comprise a review of existing systematic reviews and meta-analyses. The deliverable is a spreadsheet that includes: 1) a brief description of key findings from the science of learning and development for each of the principles of practice in the framework; 2) citations to the research supporting each finding; and 3) suggested resources that pre-service teachers can use to learn about each finding (e.g. articles, blog posts, book chapters, or videos geared towards teachers). The consultant will meet weekly with a Playful Journey Lab member for guidance and feedback.

Second Deliverable: The Research Consultant will collaborate with other Playful Journey Lab members to write a white paper, synthesizing the findings of the first deliverable for a teacher education audience.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of the science of learning and development
- Experience conducting literature reviews
- Record of scholarly work and academic publication
- Experience working with K-12 students and/or educators
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work independently and take initiative

This is a part-time, contract position that can be performed remotely and/or on-site in our Cambridge office. It is anticipated that the Research Consultant will commit 10 hours/week for 6 months or the equivalent. Salary Range: \$45-\$65/hour, depending on experience. To apply for this position, send a cover letter, a resume/CV, and a writing sample—preferably a literature review—to playfuljourneyjobs@mit.edu. For additional information about the position, please contact [Meredith Moore](mailto:mcmoore@mit.edu) at mcmoore@mit.edu.