

Faculty Name: Irene M. Pepperberg, PhD

Location: Harvard University, Dept. of Psychology

Phone: 617-495-2852

E-mail: impepper@media.mit.edu

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Faculty Research Area

General Area of Research Grey parrot cognition and communication

Description of Current Research Reasoning by exclusion, Piagetian conservation, aspects of negation, probabilistic learning, acquisition of English speech by Grey parrots, other cognitive processes

Requirements and Benefits for Student

Essential and Desirable Background Knowledge and Skills

Essential: Student must be willing to re-locate to Cambridge, MA for at least a semester, preferably an academic year in order to complete a study. Project must be collaborative with a Hunter colleague, who will supply funding (no funding is available through Harvard) and arrange for appropriate credits toward a degree or courses. Must be willing to do some parrot care in addition to the research (all students share such duties). Can present own research project or work on current studies.

Desirable: Some background in handling parrots, but that can be taught.

Expected Responsibilities

Actively work on research project, including assisting with design, execution, analyses and writing (assuming project succeeds).

Expected Benefits

Have had a Hunter student complete MS degree in the lab, with the option of pursuing a PhD, so that is an option. At the least, student will gain research experience with avian subjects.

NB: I am also available to serve as an outside examiner for PhD and MA theses in most areas of animal cognition, as long as the student is willing to keep me abreast of the research.