**Undergraduate Research Opportunity**

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| Area of Research or Title of Proposed Research Project: Spontaneous eye blink rate as a measure of stress in horses Spontaneous eye blink rate (EBR) has been purported to be a non-invasive measure of stress in horses. Essentially EBR decreases during induced situations causing stress and increases during a relaxed state. We are looking at EBR in horses during human-horse interactions to be able to correlate this measure with other measures of stress behaviour and heart rate. This research involves retrospective analysis of videos to quantify EBR under forced or voluntary touch interactions with human participants. |
| Name and department of the supervisor:Dr Katrina Merkies | Type of the research opportunity available (check all that apply)  X Research in Animal Biology (ANSC4700/4710)  X Research Volunteer |
| Semester(s) and Year, e.g. F2023/W2024 W2024 or anytime | Application deadline:Projects are ongoing – no specific deadline other than course selection |
| List 2-5 specific things you feel a student will learn during this position.1. Critical assessment of scientific literature on the topic
2. Conduct hands-on research to curate and analyze data
3. Become familiar with data coding software
4. Research results and evaluation to address equine industry issues
5. Teamwork and time management
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| Which 2-5 knowledge, skills, or attitudes are most relevant to this position? 1. Knowledge: Scientific
2. Skill: Critical and Analytical Thinking
3. Skill: Teamwork and Collaboration
4. Skill: Time Management
5. Attitude: Initiative
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| Application Requirements 1. Indicate the research course code on the cover letter accompanying the application package 2. Meet minimum course requirements, as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar  |
| Courses and/or Experiences that are Required or Recommended for the proposed position (s)Any equine-related courses or courses in animal behaviour and welfareExperience with horses and an interest in the equine industry |
| Contact information: Dr. Katrina Merkies Email\_\_\_\_kmerkies@uoguelph.ca\_\_\_\_, Phone \_\_\_\_x54707\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
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**Documents Required of Applicants**

Cover Letter Resume or CV Unofficial Transcript

Statement of Interest in Research, addressing the following questions: Why do you want to do research (and in particular a 4th year project)? Why do you want to do research in this lab specifically? What are your future goals/aspirations, for example, are you potentially interested in graduate research work or even research as a career?

\*Submit your application package to the faculty members offering research projects that interest you. You may apply for up to five (5) projects.