

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Fellow

Grade: AC2

Department: Institute of Lifecourse Development

Responsible to: Associate Head of School (Research and Knowledge Exchange)

Responsible for: N/A

Key Contacts: Co-Investigator (Co-I) and Principal Investigator (PI)

Standard Occupational Classification (SoC code): 2119

Non-Contractual Nature of Role Profile: This role profile is non-contractual and provided for guidance. It will be updated and amended from time to time in accordance with the changing needs of the University and the requirements of the job.

PURPOSE OF ROLE

The main purpose of the role is to conduct high-quality research as part of the UKRI-funded project entitled “Predictors of listening and reading comprehension in multilingual children: do text type and modality matter?”. The person appointed will be expected to:

- Conduct and manage a quantitative study to assess multilingual primary school children’s language skills in English – with a specific focus on their ability to make inferences in spoken and written texts.
- Work collaboratively as part of a team, liaise with the partner school in Newham (East London) and any other primary schools in the London area that will be recruited to the project, as well the PI and RA based at the University of Reading.
- Contribute to the research profile of the ILD and the School of Human Sciences, including REF submission.
- Contribute to the delivery of some high quality, innovative and effective education and training in the specialist areas of research and enterprise.
- Contribute to the effective operation of the research group and any associated facilities.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Team Specific:

- Project management on a day-to-day basis
- Recruitment of children and their parents to the study

- Liaising with schools and families in connection with data collection and dissemination of findings
- Test children on school premises and liaise with the Reading-based research assistant for the data collection and secure data storage
- Working with the PI and the Co-I in preparing at least one registered report and up to three additional journal peer-reviewed publications, which will contribute to the research profile of the academic unit and to REF submission.
- Working with the PI, the Co-I, and the non-academic partner in the development of bespoke experimental texts to assess children children's listening and reading comprehension.
- Working with the PI and the Co-I in the statistical modelling of the data for the preparation of peer-reviewed journal submissions including registered reports.
- Working with the PI and the Co-I to engage non-academic stakeholders in the creation of accessible information about the project's findings and implications for multilingual children, their families, and their teachers.
- Curating data, scripts, materials for Open Access.
- Proactive contribution to research group/department/school plans, activities and efficient working practices.
- Promote your work and represent your discipline and the work of the University internally and externally.

Generic:

- Assist the Centre for Thinking and Learning Research Group in achieving the Department/School's KPIs.
- Contribute to department/school plans, activities and efficient working practices.
- Participate, as appropriate, in visit to schools, local community groups, public engagements and related activity.
- Demonstrate a commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion through engagement with University initiatives.
- Promote your work and represent your discipline and the work of the University internally and externally, and take a proactive approach to ethical, good practice.

Managing Self:

- Keep abreast of developments within the field and seek continuous improvement of own professional practice.
- Actively participate in established professional development framework activities.
- Behave in a manner which reflects the University values and creates a positive environment for work and study.

Core Requirements:

- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Information Security.

- Ensure compliance with Health & Safety and Data Protection Legislation.
- Support and promote the university's Sustainability policies, including the Carbon Management Plan, and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible.
- Adhere to current legal requirements and best practice relating to digital content and accessibility, including Web Content Accessibility Guidelines when creating digital content.

Additional Requirements:

Undertake any other duties as requested by the line manager or appropriate senior manager, commensurate with the grade (Any other duties commensurate with the post and grade as agreed with the Head of Department/School and the PVC of the Faculty).

This is a professional, demanding role within a complex organisation. The role holder will be expected to show flexibility in working arrangements. The post will be based at the Greenwich Campus, and will involve in-person attendance at the University and data collection in schools in the London area.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

Performance Indicators will be established in consultation with the Co-I and PI, as well as the Head of School as part of the post-holder's annual Appraisal and Professional Development Review.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):

University of Greenwich – Co-I, University of Reading – PI

PERSON SPECIFICATION

EXPERIENCE:

Essential Criteria

- Experience of successfully designing and conducting psycholinguistic studies with children, including applying for ethics approval, collecting language and/or cognitive data with primary school children, conducting advanced statistical analyses, and preparing data for dissemination
- Experience in presenting at national or international research conferences and in publishing high quality research in English-language peer reviewed international journals
- Experience of working in an academic team to meet publication deadlines

Desirable Criteria

- Experience of testing children in UK primary schools
- Experience of submitting and/or publishing registered reports
- Experience in the design and/or selection of appropriate language and cognitive tests and materials to be used with children
- Experience of public engagement and knowledge co-creation with non-academic partners, in particular children, their families and their teachers
- Experience of working with families from a range of diverse linguistic backgrounds
- Experience of managing other researchers in an academic team

SKILLS:

Essential Criteria

- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills, including demonstrated ability to present information effectively to academic audiences and evidence of publication of peer-reviewed research in English-language journals of international standing
- Excellent ability to communicate and engage with children in a research capacity
- A proactive and independent approach to prioritising deadlines and managing workload
- Ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative team
- Advanced statistical modelling skills using R and the ability and willingness to learn new modelling techniques as relevant to the project
- Excellent attention to detail

Desirable Criteria

- The ability to engage non-academic audiences in science communication

- The ability to develop new research ideas leading to funding applications
- The ability to successfully supervise and mentor junior members of the team

QUALIFICATIONS:

Essential Criteria

- A PhD in Psycholinguistics, Psychology or related discipline

Desirable Criteria

- A PhD focused on language and/or literacy development in monolingual and/or multilingual children
- A master's or other postgraduate degree with a component of advanced research methods

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

Essential Criteria

- We are looking for people who can help us deliver the [values](#) of the University of Greenwich: Inclusive, Collaborative and Impactful.

Desirable Criteria

- N/A