

# JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Vacancy reference:</b>	SRF33036
<b>Post Title:</b>	Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Cognitive Neuroscience
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 6
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
<b>Reports to:</b>	Dr. Kou Murayama
<b>Responsible for:</b>	N/A

## Purpose

This is a post-doctoral research role to contribute to and develop the research work by the prestigious Leverhulme Research Leadership Award (PI: Kou Murayama; <http://koumurayama.com/>) at the University of Reading. The project aims to establish an integrative theory of human interest and its relations to extrinsic rewards, combining psychological, neural, computational, and applied perspectives. The post holder will specifically perform a neuroimaging project about how people's intrinsic rewards (e.g., interest, curiosity) is processed at the neural level.

## Main duties and responsibilities

### Research:

- Develop research projects to examine the neural processing of intrinsic rewards (potentially utilising naturalistic stimuli such as video clips).
- Program the fMRI experiments and collect and maintain the data produced under the supervision of the Principle Investigator
- Contribute to the writing of papers for publication in leading academic journals and other relevant media
- Disseminate research findings and establish a national reputation through participation in national conferences, exhibitions etc.
- Help Ph. D. projects on a relevant topic.
- Implement research methodologies that add to knowledge and understanding appropriate to the discipline
- Collaborate with colleagues within the University in the development of original research
- Provide specialist advice to other staff within the University on fMRI analysis skills
- Use initiative and creativity to synthesise, analyse and interpret fMRI research data

### Leadership & Management:

- Work closely with and ensure good communication between colleagues within the University and among project partners more broadly;
- Participate in project group meetings
- Contribute to departmental presentations or seminars

The postdoctoral research fellow will also be encouraged to autonomously collaborate with lab members and beyond to pursue their own research question related to the topic of intrinsic rewards.

**Supervision received**

The Postdoctoral Research Assistant will have regular meetings (e.g. once a week) with the Principal Investigator who will direct the project and monitor progress.

**Contact**

It is expected that the post holder will liaise with other academics and researchers within and beyond the lab. There will also be contact with people who participate in our project-related experiments.

**Terms and conditions**

Full-time, fixed-term contract from September 21, 2020 (start date is negotiable) for up to 2.5 years.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

**Date assessed: 20/06/2020**

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Assistant	School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Skills Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good standard fMRI analysis skills with SPM or FSL.</li> <li>• Good experimental programming skills*</li> </ul> <p>(* In the application, please specify the programming languages and type of analysis you feel comfortable with.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to work to deadlines</li> <li>• Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills to analyse fMRI data with dynamic stimuli (e.g., video clips).</li> <li>• Research and project-related administrative skills.</li> <li>• Skills of applying computational modelling to experimental data.</li> </ul>
<b>Attainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD in Psychology, Neuroscience, or other related discipline (or working towards completion)</li> <li>• A good honours degree in relevant subject</li> <li>• Evidence of having published peer-reviewed papers on the relevant topics or using the required methods</li> </ul>	
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic knowledge about motivation and learning in psychology and cognitive neuroscience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific knowledge about reward learning, and/or motivation in cognitive neuroscience.</li> </ul>

<b>Relevant Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of running human participants with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).</li> <li>• Experience of analysing fMRI data.</li> <li>• Experience of doing research on reward or episodic memory.</li> <li>• Experience of presenting research projects at academic conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of using naturalistic stimuli in experiments.</li> <li>• Experience of managing a project</li> </ul>
<b>Disposition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard working and autonomous.</li> <li>• Good organisational and interpersonal skills</li> <li>• The ability to work both within a team as well as independently</li> </ul>	

Completed by: Kou Murayama

Date: 20/6/2020