

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF34810
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Assistant
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
Reports to:	Etienne Roesch
Responsible for:	n/a

Purpose

This is a 24-month post-doctoral research position for a neuroscientist/bio-engineer to investigate how humans prioritise information in support of the decisions they make, in the context of cyber security and artificial intelligence. The remit is focused on visual perception, attention and individual differences, and will be using psychometric assessments and psychophysics measurements as well as concurrent EEG-fMRI recording. The successful candidate will join our lab, at the University of Reading, which is part of a research consortium in this EPSRC funded project, composed of the University of Greenwich, the University of Bristol, Queen Mary University London, University College London, and industrial partners.

Main duties and responsibilities

Research:

- Undertake research under the supervision of the Principle Investigator alongside partners of the project, and collaborators
- Contribute to the scientific design and development of the research
- Collaborate with colleagues within the University, and other institutions in the development and delivery of the research
- Use initiative and creativity to synthesise, store, analyse and interpret research data
- Lead and contribute to the writing of papers for publication in leading academic journals and other relevant media
- Disseminate research findings to the project partners and interested external bodies
- Contribute to the development and writing of research proposals and projects
- Disseminate research findings and establish a reputation through participation in national and international conferences, etc
- Implement research methodologies that add to knowledge and understanding appropriate to the discipline
- Provide specialist advice to other staff and students within the University, and participate in the community (e.g. coding club, reproducibiliTea journal club, neurohack, neuromethods seminars, etc)

Enterprise & Outreach:

- Liaise with industrial partners external to the University
- Support efforts to promote the project and to disseminate the project's findings internally and externally

- Attend relevant seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other events
- Contribute to writing and presenting reports for industrial partners
- Participate in relevant school meetings and events

Leadership & Management:

- Oversee project progress, and the meeting of deadlines, under the supervision of the Principle Investigator
- Organise and participate in project group meetings
- Work closely with and ensure good communication between colleagues working on the project
- Support the supervision of any project or placement students working on the project.
- Oversee the smooth running of the laboratory and equipment in CIN, ensuring that healthy and safety rules are followed by all, maintaining a clean and tidy environment and ensuring that stocks of consumables are maintained in a timely manner.

Supervision received

The post holder will be supervised by Dr Etienne Roesch, who will oversee and mentor, as well as other members of the Centre and the School of Psychology. Training in both scientific and impact activities is provided either by the Principle Investigator, the Centre or the University.

Supervision given

The post holder will not formally be responsible for the supervision of others. However, they may be asked to oversee the work of project or placement students who join the project team.

Contact

Frequent contact with group researchers, PIs, collaborators and the EPSRC CHAI Consortium.

Terms and conditions

Full time, fixed term for up to 24 months, with possibility of extension. There are no specified hours of work, but you will be required to work such hours as are necessary to carry out the duties associated with the post. Overtime is not payable.

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: 24/02/2021

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent organisation and project management skills • Ability to work independently and as part of a team • Excellent critical thinking and problem-solving skills • Excellent communication skills, both orally and in writing, to a lay audience, as well as researchers in other disciplines • Excellent computer and statistical skills and experience of a programming language (Python) • Ability to work to deadlines • Experience with either or both EEG and fMRI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of psychophysics methods • Experience of psychometrics methods
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD (or thesis submitted for examination) in psychology, neuroscience, statistics, bioengineering or a related discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postdoctoral research experience in psychology, neuroscience, statistics, bioengineering or a related discipline • Appropriate publication record for career level
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working knowledge of a programming language, such as Python 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of behavioural research methods in humans • Knowledge of fields relating to cyberpsychology and cyber security
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience analysing data and writing reports for publication or for dissemination to professional partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience conducting psychological research with human participants • Experience teaching technical topics • Experience working in interdisciplinary research projects
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent interpersonal skills • Excellent time management • Excellent organisation skills and attention to detail • Drive and ambition to pursue a research-driven career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive and ambition to pursue a career at the interface between academic and industrial research

Completed by: Etienne Roesch

Date: 17/02/2021