

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF27881
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Education and Data Science
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
Reports to:	Dr. Kou Murayama

Purpose

This is a post-doctoral research role to contribute to and develop the research work in the Motivation Science Lab funded 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 examine the function of interest and curiosity in education using publicly-available data by applying multivariate statistical analysis or machine learning.

Main duties and responsibilities

Research:

- Contribute to the development of research proposals and projects
- Undertake research under the supervision of the Principle Investigator by gathering and organizing relevant publicly-available data sets in education
- Apply multivariate analysis (possibly longitudinal data analysis or machine learning algorithms) to the large sample data
- 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.
- 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 statistical analysis skills

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 other lab members and beyond to pursue their own research question related to the topic of interest and curiosity.

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 May 2019 (start date is negotiable) for 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: 16/01/2019

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good statistical analysis skills such as multivariate and longitudinal data analysis. • Good skills to use R or other relevant programming language to organise and analyse data*. <p><i>(* In the application, please specify the type of analysis and software you feel comfortable with.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing • Ability to work to deadlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good data analysis skill using machine learning. • Research and project-related administrative skills
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in Psychology, Education, Applied Statistics, or other related discipline (or working towards completion) • A good honours degree in relevant subject Evidence of having published peer-reviewed papers on the relevant topics or using the required methods 	
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge about education science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific knowledge about motivation research in education.

Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of organising and analysing large sample survey data • Experience of working in education research • Experience of presenting research projects at academic conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of analysing publicly-available data in education. • Experience of managing a project
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard working and autonomous. • Good organizational and interpersonal skills • The ability to work both within a team as well as independently 	

Completed by: Kou Murayama	Date: 15/1/2019
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