

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Vacancy reference:</b>	SRF28852
<b>Post Title:</b>	Research paediatric speech and language therapist for language interventions in autism
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 6
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences
<b>Reports to:</b>	Dr Fang Liu
<b>Responsible for:</b>	N/A

### Purpose

The main purpose of the role is to undertake independent research and carry out language interventions for 2-4-year-old nonverbal or minimally verbal children with autism, using either music-assisted programmes or standard speech and language therapy approaches. The project is funded by an ERC (European Research Council) Proof of Concept grant, MAP, 838787, entitled “Music-assisted programmes: Developing communication in autism spectrum disorder through music making.”

### Main duties and responsibilities

The main duties and responsibilities of the post include:

- To recruit participants and build and maintain an excellent rapport with participants over the duration of the project.
- To carry out language and cognitive assessments and research diagnosis of ASD using ADOS-2.
- To devise and deliver language interventions to nonverbal or minimally verbal autistic children using either music-assisted programmes or standard speech and language therapy approaches.
- To review and revise the programmes as appropriate.
- To advise parents or carers on implementing the treatment programmes.
- To write confidential case notes and reports, as well as information for parents, carers and other professionals.
- To analyse and write up the results for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- To disseminate the results at national and international conferences or at other appropriate events.
- To maintain an awareness of scientific literature relevant to the research project, keep abreast of latest developments in the field and communicate findings to the academic team.
- To contribute to the overall activity of the research group by attendance at and presentation to internal seminar programmes and workshops and to engage in collaborative interaction with other research groups in the university or other institutions.
- To carry out training of placement/project students in the laboratory to ensure that they are safe and competent to carry out particular techniques.
- To carry out administrative tasks associated with the specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings, arranging discussion groups, and producing associated documentation.
- To achieve the deliverables according to the project plan of the ERC grant.

## **Supervision received**

The project will be managed and coordinated by Dr Fang Liu (PI), who will provide day-to-day supervision to the post holder. The post will also be supported by co-investigators on the project: Dr Tom Loucas (speech and language therapist), Dr Tim Williams (clinical psychologist) and Dr Jacqueline Sin (clinical health).

## **Supervision given**

The post holder will not be responsible for leading the supervision of others. However, they will have the opportunity to contribute to the supervision of BSc/placement projects associated with the work.

## **Contact**

The post holder will have regular contact with members of the CAASD lab led by Dr Fang Liu (<https://research.reading.ac.uk/caasd-project/>), and researchers in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences at the University of Reading (<https://www.reading.ac.uk/Psychology/Meetourteam/pcls-meet-our-team.aspx>).

## **Terms and conditions**

Full time, fixed term for up to 18 months. 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: 30/04/2019**

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Research paediatric speech and language therapist	Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Skills Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective communication skills, both verbal and written</li> <li>• Ability to work collaboratively with parents and their children</li> <li>• The ability to engage and interact with nonverbal or minimally verbal children</li> <li>• Excellent computer skills</li> <li>• Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and project-related administrative skills</li> </ul>
<b>Attainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recognised speech and language therapy qualification</li> <li>• HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council) registration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSc or PhD in psychology or a related subject or equivalent research/clinical experience</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of autism</li> <li>• Knowledge of music theory to grade 6 level</li> <li>• Research reliability on the ADOS-2 and/or ADI-R</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plays a musical instrument</li> </ul>
<b>Relevant Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous paediatric SALT (Speech and Language Therapy) experience</li> <li>• Experience of building and maintaining external contacts/partners in order to drive mutual interests</li> <li>• Experience of recruiting human participants</li> <li>• Experience of writing academic research papers</li> <li>• Experience of managing a research project</li> <li>• Experience of public speaking at events/exhibitions etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of training of placement/project students</li> <li>• Experience of conducting randomised controlled trials</li> </ul>
<b>Disposition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent organisational skills and the ability to work to deadlines</li> <li>• The ability to work both within a team as well as independently</li> </ul>	

Completed by: Fang Liu	Date: 30/04/2019
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