

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF29415
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Associate
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	SPCLS
Reports to:	Prof Bhismadev Chakrabarti
Responsible for:	any members of staff this person line manages

Purpose

This is a post-doctoral research role to contribute to and develop the research work on an MRC funded international project on global mental health to develop a mobile platform for measuring child behaviour and brain function in low-resource settings.

The postholder will be a key member of the international STREAM (Scalable Transdiagnostic Early Assessment of Mental health) project team, led by Prof Chakrabarti.

The aim of this five-year project is to develop, test, and refine a mobile platform (i.e. app) that incorporates measures of key domains of human behaviour (e.g. cognition, social-emotional behaviour) in 0-6-year-old children. The technical aspects of the app development will be done by an external provider.

Main duties and responsibilities

The postholder is expected to a) coordinate with the different project partners and communicate regularly with the developers, b) provide expert knowledge on developmental psychology to refine platform design and deployment, c) conduct iterative pilot tests with the mobile platform, and train junior researchers on the use of the platform, d) analyse data collected by the platform,

Research:

- Undertake research under the supervision of the Principal Investigator
- Contribute to writing proposals for research grants
- Provide specialist advice and knowledge on developmental psychology to refine the platform design and deployment
- Carry out iterative pilot tests with the mobile platform as part of a team and train junior researchers to use the platform
- Contribute to the writing of papers for publication in leading academic journals and other relevant media
- Disseminate research findings through participation in appropriate conferences
- Collaborate with colleagues within the University in the development of original research
- Use initiative and creativity to synthesise, analyse and interpret research data

Enterprise & Outreach:

- Coordinate research with relevant members of the project team, and particularly the app developers
- Contribute to writing and presenting project reports

Leadership & Management:

- May supervise the work of junior researchers
- May participate in School promotion and recruitment initiatives such as Open Days and Visit Days
- Undertake project-related administration such as organising regular project meetings, departmental presentations or seminars

Supervision received

The postholder will be supervised directly by Prof Bhisimadev Chakrabarti, who is the PI of the project. In addition, they will receive regular input from senior project partners (Dr. Melissa Gladstone at Liverpool, Prof. Vikram Patel at Harvard, Dr Gauri Divan at Sangath, Prof. Sharat Chandran at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay), as well as other collaborators. The postholder will also be supported to showcase results from this work in national and international meetings.

Supervision given

The postholder will be expected to supervise junior researchers and non-specialists on related projects and oversee the pilot studies using the platform. Subject to interest and availability of opportunities, the postholder can be provided with opportunities to contribute to teaching and learning activities at the School.

Contact

The postholder will have regular contact with all project partners (listed in the section on 'Supervision received') as well as with the technology development company.

Terms and conditions

The role is a full-time fixed-term contract for 30 months. Some weekend working might be necessary depending on the nature of the task and deadlines.

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.

The post is physically based at the University of Reading. However, given the international nature of the project, some travel (anticipated to be no more than two trips a year) might be required for ensuring synchronization of research across sites. The duration of the post may be extended based on the level of performance, and availability of funds.

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: 31/07/2019

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Associate	PCLS

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing & running experiments in developmental psychology: behavioural testing of young children, 0-6 years • Project management & coordination with multiple partners/stakeholders • Ability to work to deadlines • Statistical data analysis using R and/or Matlab • Writing papers for publication • Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills • Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing • Ability to work both independently and as a member of a team • Excellent organisational skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with children with neurodevelopmental disorders, e.g. Autism Spectrum Disorders • Writing grant applications • Research and project-related administrative skills
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in a relevant discipline (psychology, neuroscience, psychiatry) • A good honours degree in relevant subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of having a publication record on relevant topics
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental psychology • Statistics for large scale data analysis using Matlab and/or R • Neurodevelopmental disorders • Experiment design • Cultural differences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • App design

<p>Relevant Experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of conducting psychological research, ideally in an applied setting or with children and families at home • Writing papers and publishing them within an acceptable timeline • Experience of managing a project with multiple investigators • Experience of building and maintaining external contacts/partners in order to drive mutual interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some experience of testing behavioural paradigms in different cultures • Writing grant applications • Postdoctoral experience in a relevant topic
<p>Disposition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work in a team, with several members off-site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in global mental health and child development and behaviour • Interest in developing experiments related to the current project aims and go beyond the remit of the project.

Completed by: Bhisimadev Chakrabarti	Date: 30/07/2019
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