UCL

Job Description

Title: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Grade: 7

Division: Psychology and Language Sciences

Location: London

Department: Experimental Psychology

Reports to: Dr Jennifer Rodd

Main purpose of the job

To work on the ESRC-funded grant: "Individual Differences in Comprehension across the Lifespan." The post-holder will be required to implement computational models to test different theoretical accounts of how word meanings are learned, represented and accessed.

Research setting

UCL is renowned as a centre of excellence in psychology and language science and successful applicants will join a vibrant and collaborative research community. The work will take place in Dr Jenni Rodd's lab within the Department of Experimental Psychology, at UCL. The department a welcoming and sociable research environment, with regular joint meetings between the research groups, and offers many opportunities for collaboration. The department more broadly comprises a variety of researchers working in many areas of psychology including decision-making, language, vision and social cognition. The project will be conducted in close collaboration with Prof Kate Nation (University of Oxford), and Dr Rogier Kievit and Dr Matt Davis (both at the MRC CBU, Cambridge).

Duties and responsibilities

To implement computational models to test different theoretical accounts of how word meanings are learned, represented and accessed.

To make materials used in these simulations openly available to the research community at a time considered appropriate by the Principal Investigators

To prepare and present findings of research activity to colleagues.

To contribute to the writing, submission and revision of papers to be submitted to appropriate conferences and peer reviewed journals, collaborating with others as appropriate.

To contribute to the induction and supervision of other research staff and students if so requested by the Principal Investigators.

To take responsibility for ensuring that the research equipment is safe and maintained in working order.

To carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the Principal Investigators.

To prepare progress reports on research for funding bodies as required.

To contribute to the overall activities of the research team.

As duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post-holder.

The post-holder will carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager or Head of Department/Division.

The post-holder will actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies.

The post-holder will maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations, and an awareness of and adherence to divisional and UCL Green Awareness guidelines.

Appointment at Grade 7 is dependent upon having been awarded a PhD; if this is not the case, initial appointment will be at Research Assistant Grade 6B salary 35,965 to £38,993 per annum) with payment at Grade 7 being backdated to the date of final submission of the PhD thesis.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable	Assessment method (Application/Interview)
Qualifications, experience and knowledge		
A Ph.D. (or in submission of a Ph.D.) in a relevant area (e.g., psychology/linguistics/computer science)	Essential	Application
Track record of publication of research in high quality peer reviewed journals	Desirable	Application
In-depth knowledge of the relevant scientific literature on computational models of language processing	Desirable	Interview
Skills and abilities		
Experience building computational models of language processing	Essential	Application
Effective written and verbal communication skills	Essential	Both
Advanced programming skills	Essential	Application
Advanced knowledge of diverse approaches to computational modelling	Desirable	Both
Strong commitment to open science practices	Desirable	Both
Personal attributes		
Curiosity and interest in language comprehension	Essential	Both
Commitment to inter-disciplinary research	Essential	Both
Commitment to high quality research	Essential	Both
Patience and persistence together with the ability to set and attain goals	Essential	Both
Ability to work collaboratively and as part of a team	Essential	Both
Commitment to UCL's policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and students of all cultures and backgrounds	Essential	Application