Research Assistant

Department of Psychology

Closing date: 1 June 2018
Interview date: To Be Confirmed
Vacancy reference: 6632
INTRODUCTION

The Department of Psychology is seeking a full time Research Assistant for 30 months to work on a major project funded by a new award from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The project focuses on the construct of mind-mindedness (parents’ ability to ‘tune in’ to their infants’ thoughts and feelings) and is led by Professor Elizabeth Meins. You will be based at the Department of Psychology at the University of York, but will be part of a team involving researchers at the universities of York, Durham and Liverpool. You will work with a sample of around 200 mothers and children from the York area who have been participating in a longitudinal study that began in pregnancy or the first year of life. This previous research was an intervention study to evaluate the efficacy of a smartphone app in increasing mothers’ mind-mindedness. The intervention proved effective, and you will be responsible for assisting with the research following up these families when the children are 2, 3 and 4 years of age. These testing phases will involve assessing children’s self-regulation, language, mentalising and inhibitory control abilities.
JOB DESCRIPTION

Main purpose of the role

- To provide support to a research project, undertaking research work within the overall programme and assisting with the day to day operation of the project.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To undertake work, which may be as part of a research team, investigating a designated area of subject knowledge to promote further understanding.

- To contribute to the intellectual development of the project and plan own activities within the overall research effort.

- With the guidance of the project supervisor, to undertake a combination of literature searches/scholarly reading, desk and/or lab-based research, subject interviews, questionnaires/sampling or other research activity. Using specialist knowledge, techniques and/or instrumentation as required.

- To document work appropriately and in accordance with research best practice.

- To work closely with the project supervisor to prepare work for dissemination, presenting preliminary findings at meetings within the research group as appropriate.

- Under the guidance of the project supervisor, to assist in writing articles, papers, reports or books as appropriate.

- To liaise and collaborate with students and researchers and relevant external contacts and organisations.

- To participate in the dissemination of research findings internally and externally at seminars, workshops and conferences.

- To consider the public engagement and impact of the project and take appropriate steps to maximise these with the support of the research leader.

- To provide instruction to students as required.

- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities as delegated by the Research Supervisor. Examples may include: organising meetings, conferences and workshops; monitoring budgets and stock control; developing promotional or educational material, including website maintenance and development.

- To prioritise tasks within an agreed work schedule to ensure that the project is delivered on time.

At a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>£24,983 Per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours of work</td>
<td>37 Hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>Fixed term contract (30 months)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based at</td>
<td>University of York</td>
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Based at

University of York
# PERSON SPECIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved or predicted first class or upper second class undergraduate degree in psychology or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## Knowledge

- Knowledge of a relevant subject area | Essential
- Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies | Essential
- Understanding of relevant health & safety practices | Essential
- Awareness of the ethical issues involved in working with children | Essential
- Experience of research involving young children | Desirable

## Skills, abilities and competencies

- Ability to undertake academic research. Examples may include preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments or field work, the development of questionnaires and conducting surveys | Essential
- Ability to organise own research activities to agreed deadlines and quality standards | Essential
- Excellent IT skills, including the ability to maximise social media as appropriate | Essential
- Ability to assist in the supervision of student projects | Essential
- Ability to provide support to staff and any students who may be assisting with the research | Essential
- Excellent written communication skills in order to contribute effectively to the production of research reports and publications | Essential
- High level oral communication skills to enable the effective presentation of research progress and outcomes to key stakeholders | Essential
- Ability to communicate new and complex information effectively to a range of audiences | Essential
- Ability to develop internal and external contacts in order to enhance knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration | Essential
- Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative | Essential
# PERSON SPECIFICATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Experience</strong></th>
<th><strong>Essential / Desirable</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Experience of conducting quantitative research in psychology</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience of working with children and families and/or vulnerable groups</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Personal attributes**

| **Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project**            | Essential                  |
| **Positive attitude to colleagues and students**                               | Essential                  |
| **A passion for conducting high quality research with impact**                 | Essential                  |
| **Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions** | Essential                  |
| **Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines**         | Essential                  |
| **Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills**   | Essential                  |
| **Excellent interpersonal skills**                                            | Essential                  |
Psychology at York is one of Britain's leading departments of psychology. Research in Psychology, Psychiatry, and Neuroscience at York was ranked 4th out of 82 submissions in the most recent national assessment of research quality. The high quality of our teaching and support for students has been endorsed by the British Psychological Society (https://www.york.ac.uk/psychology/news-and-events/features/bptsteamcommendsundergraduatCoursesatyork/) and is reflected in positive ratings from students (https://www.york.ac.uk/psychology/prospective/undergraduate/bsc-psychology/). The Department has been placed among the World's top 100 departments of psychology in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings every year since 2013.

The Department of Psychology is a large and vibrant department with a strong community atmosphere and a nurturing learning environment. There are currently 45 members of academic staff, backed up by excellent technical and administrative support staff. The Department supports approximately 650 undergraduates, 100 master's students, 40 PhD students, and 25 post-doctoral fellows. We offer two undergraduate programmes: a 3-year BSc and a 4-year MPsych, which includes an integrated master's programme. We offer five master's programmes: a Master of Research (MRes) in Psychology, as well as taught master's programmes in Applied Forensic Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience, and Development, Disorders, and Clinical Practice. Postgraduate research degrees in both Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging are also offered.

Students in the Department benefit from research-led teaching that is coherently organised around the core curriculum set out by the British Psychological Society. Students benefit from the Department's excellent research facilities and expertise: our main building houses specialised laboratories for research on vision, speech and hearing, memory, language processing, child development and experimental social psychology, with state-of-the-art behavioural and electrophysiological equipment. Satellite buildings on campus (max. 15 minute walk) house the Wolfson Centre for Child Development and Family Research as well as the York Centre for Hyperpolarisation in Magnetic Resonance Imaging and the York Neuroimaging Centre. Access to these facilities and the researchers who work here is an integral part of the student experience. The Department sits within the Faculty of Sciences, and actively aids in the development of Learning and Teaching strategies both within the faculty and the greater university.

As committed providers of higher education, we strive to develop and deliver interesting and effective programmes at all levels of the curriculum. In addition, we place a heavy focus on ensuring that our students leave York with excellent employability skills for a range of different careers. In a rapidly changing global workplace, we work hard to provide consistent and useful supervision to promote personal development and career planning throughout all degree programmes.

Psychology at York is committed to ensuring that all members of staff achieve their full potential in a supportive and responsive work environment. In 2007, we received the first Athena SWAN Silver Award for a psychology department in recognition of our commitment to supporting women in science. The award was renewed in 2011 and 2016. Working patterns in the Department are flexible. We provide support for staff taking maternity, paternity, adoption, and parental leave, and the University has a nursery and a childcare voucher scheme. The Department strives to address gender inequalities in both the staff and student bodies. Our success is founded on an inclusive culture wherein women and men seek excellence and support each other in attaining it.
THE UNIVERSITY

Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2018 it is the home of more than 17,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. Since opening over fifty years ago, we have become one of the world's leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

We are consistently recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and are ranked 16th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2017). The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen’s Anniversary Prizes.

The University is proud of its association with Athena SWAN, holding 12 awards in support of gender equality, representation and success for all, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology and a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we’ve worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community - a place where we can all be ourselves and succeed on merit. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, staff engagement forums, campus facilities and services to support staff from different backgrounds.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.
THE CITY AND THE REGION

The City of York
Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York's bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn’t just a great place to visit - it’s also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit www.visityork.org for more information on the city of York

Shopping, culture and entertainment
York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools
Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location
York is one of Britain’s best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King’s Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire
The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
Apply online

- Go to https://jobs.york.ac.uk
- Find this job using reference 6632
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 1 June 2018

What will I need?

We will ask you for details of:
- your employment history
- relevant qualifications
- two referees

You need to be ready to show us how you meet the requirements of the job, either in a written statement and / or by answering questions.

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to Nicole.warmus@york.ac.uk

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835