Research Associate

Department of Psychology

Closing date: 11 October 2018

Interview date: To be confirmed

Vacancy reference: 7020
INTRODUCTION

The Department of Psychology at the University of York is seeking a Research Associate from 1 January 2019 to contribute to a 4-year project funded by the Leverhulme Trust in the area of speech perception and cognitive listening. The purpose of the project is to understand the effect of cognitive load and background noise on speech recognition. Data collection will be based on perceptual methods and auditory psychophysical tests.

The successful candidate will contribute to every stage of the project. He/She will be responsible for designing the experiments, creating, recording, and editing the materials for all experiments. He/She will also be in charge of recruiting and testing participants, assist with data analysis and dissemination of the results, and provide support for a PhD student. It is expected that the candidate will lead most of the studies as a lead or co-author.

Candidates should have a PhD degree in speech and hearing science or psycholinguistics.

A good command of experimental designs in cognitive science and statistical analysis is essential. Experience in psychophysics (including programming psychophysical experiments), psycholinguistics, and/or speech perception is highly desirable, as is experience of publishing in scientific journals. The project will be carried out in the laboratory of Professor Sven Mattys at York.
Main purpose of the role

- To conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research
- To assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects

Key responsibilities

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

- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects, duties to include: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate research techniques and methods; writing up of research results and dissemination through publications, seminar and conference presentations and public engagement and outreach activities; contributing to the identification of possible new areas of research
- To contribute to the preparation of research proposals and applications to external bodies
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including conference organisation, and the development of promotional or educational material including website maintenance and development
- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings
- To provide guidance to other staff and students, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams
- To assist with undergraduate teaching in own area of expertise.
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First degree in speech/hearing science or psychology (or related field)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD in speech/hearing science or psycholinguistics</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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### Knowledge

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<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge in speech and speech/hearing science or psycholinguistics to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of a range of experimental techniques and methodologies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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### Skills, abilities and competencies

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<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience of writing up research work for publication</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<th>Personal attributes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Collaborative ethos</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Positive attitude to colleagues and students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT

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 (https://www.york.ac.uk/psychology/news-and-events/features/bpsteam.commends.undergraduate.courses.at.york/) 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 masters programme. We offer five master’s programmes: a master of research (MRes) in Psychology, as well taught masters 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 organized around the core curriculum set-out by the BPS. 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 using state-of-the-art behavioural, electrophysiological and neuroimaging techniques. 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 are 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
THE DEPARTMENT

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.
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 7020
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 11 October 2018

What will I need?
You will need to upload:
- your CV
- a letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job
You will also need details of 3 referees

Help and assistance
Direct any informal queries to Professor Sven Mattys (sven.mattys@york.ac.uk)
If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:
recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835