Research Associate
Department of Psychology

Closing date: 11 January 2018
Interview date: To Be Confirmed
Vacancy reference: 7231
INTRODUCTION

The Sleep Language and Memory Lab is seeking a full-time Research Associate to work for one year on a project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (with the possibility to extend to 18 months). The project, awarded to Dr Lisa Henderson and Professor Gareth Gaskell in collaboration with Professor Courtenay Norbury, is examining the role of sleep in memory consolidation (with a particular focus on language learning) in adult and developmental populations, and through the lens of developmental disorders (e.g., autism and language impairment). Sleep is well known to affect the consolidation process that takes fragile memories and makes them robust. Components of sleep such as “slow oscillations” influence this process. However, little is known about how these mechanisms differ across development, and in individuals with disorders such as autism and language impairment. Experiments will utilise behavioural and EEG paradigms and involve testing of adult, developmental and/or disordered populations in nap/overnight sleep studies. We are looking for an individual who can contribute expertise in one or more of these domains. The post-holder will hold a PhD, and ideally have experience with designing and implementing adult and/or developmental experiments within the area of language learning and memory.
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.

JOB DESCRIPTION

At a glance

Salary £32,236

Hours of work Full-time (37 hours a week)

Contract type Fixed-term (12 months)

Based at Heslington Campus West

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First degree in Neuroscience or Psychology or other relevant subject</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD in Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience or other relevant subject</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Knowledge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies related to experimental psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and/or language and memory</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in research on language learning across development</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of applying experimental methodologies to developmental populations (including the ethical procedures surrounding such research)</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Skills, abilities and competencies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to use software packages for statistical analysis e.g., R, SPSS</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to design and implement experiments in language, learning, and/or memory</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Experience**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Personal attributes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal attributes</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaborative ethos</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive attitude to colleagues and students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Department of Psychology, founded in 1974, is a leading research and teaching establishment, housed in its own buildings on the Heslington West Campus. We have a faculty of 45 and growing, technical and secretarial support, and an active community graduate students and post-doctoral research fellows. Our undergraduate intake is approximately 200 per year and we run five MSc courses, totalling over 80 taught postgraduates. The York Neuroimaging Centre (YNiC) is part of the Psychology Department and provides staff and the students they supervise with state of the art research facilities for cognitive neuroscience.
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 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](http://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 7231
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 11 January 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 2 referees.

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to Lisa Henderson (lisa-marie.henderson@york.ac.uk) or Gareth Gaskell (gareth.gaskell@york.ac.uk)

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

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