



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Research Assistant
Department / Unit:	Psychology
Job type	Research
Grade:	RHUL 6
Accountable to:	Dr. Saloni Krishnan
Purpose of the Post	
To undertake research supporting the MRC funded project, "Reward and motivation mechanisms supporting language learning: a cross-syndrome investigation of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) and autism". This will include designing, programming and running experiments; recording results; analysing data and as part of a team, writing up resulting data for publication.	
Key Tasks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set up experiments in consultation with the Principal Investigator and project collaborators, incorporating knowledge of scientific literature. • To collect MRI and behavioural data from typically developing children and those with DLD and autism (independently and with other team members). • To manage participant recruitment and scheduling for the study, with creativity and initiative. This may involve liaising with project partners. • To record, analyse, and write up the results of experiments, maintaining a permanent record of the methodologies and the experiment. Data generated over the course of the experiment must be anonymised appropriately and made open access when appropriate. • To contribute to public engagement activities related to disseminating the issues and findings of the research project, including updating the project website • To prepare and present findings of research activity to colleagues and at scientific meetings • To contribute to the writing, submission, and revision of papers to be submitted to appropriate peer reviewed journals, collaborating with the research team and project partners. • To plan own day-to-day research activity, seeking supervision as necessary • To contribute to the overall activities of the research team and the department as appropriate (e.g., scheduling and contributing to lab meetings, writing lab protocols, helping with induction of new lab members). 	
Other Duties	

The duties listed are not exhaustive and may be varied from time to time as dictated by the changing needs of the College. The post holder will be expected to undertake other duties as appropriate and as requested by the Principal Investigator.

The post holder may be required to work at any of the locations at which the business of Royal Holloway is conducted.

Internal and external relationships

The following list is not exhaustive but the post holder will be required to liaise with: Students, other members of staff within the school/department and College, academics in other institutions and, where relevant, practitioners and non-academic stakeholders.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Details on the qualifications, experience, skills, knowledge and abilities that are needed to fulfil this role are set out below.

Job Title: Research Assistant

Department: Psychology

	Essential	Desirable	Tested by Application Form/Interview/Test
Knowledge, Education, Qualifications and Training			
Good undergraduate (2:1, 1st-class, or equivalent) degree in psychology, speech and language therapy or a closely-related discipline	X		Application form
Masters degree in psychology, speech and language therapy or related discipline		X	Application form
Enthusiasm for and commitment to research on language development and disorder, learning, and motivation	X		Application form/ Interview
Skills and Abilities			
Basic understanding of language development and neurodevelopmental disorders	X		Application form/ Interview
Excellent skills in task development, including some experience of programming tasks	X		Application form/ Interview
High level of efficiency and good attention to detail in handling data	X		Application form/ Interview
Enthusiasm for open science practices	X		Application form/ Interview
Knowledge of the ethical considerations that are important when working with children	X		Interview
The ability to work independently and largely unsupervised, as well as in a collegiate manner with team members	X		Application form/ Interview
Ability to present complex information effectively to a range of audiences (written and spoken)	X		Application form/ Interview
Excellent time-management and organisational skills	X		Application form/ Interview
Very good computer skills (e.g., designing posters, updating websites etc)	X		Application form/ Interview

Experience			
Experience with experimental design and data collection	X		Application form
Experience in a research environment, for example, attending lab meetings, presenting research		X	
Experience working with individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions (e.g., DLD, dyslexia, autism) or relevant charities		X	Application form/ Interview
Experience working with children, ideally in a research capacity		X	Application form/ Interview
Experience/knowledge of standardised assessments of language, social skills and/ or cognition		X	Application form/ Interview
Experience/ knowledge of acquisition and analysis of MRI data		X	Application form/ Interview
A contribution to a paper in an international peer-reviewed journal, preprint or pre-registration		X	Application form/ Interview
Other requirements			
Willingness to obtain an enhanced DBS check	X		Application form/ Interview
Ability and willingness to work flexible hours (weekends and/or evenings as needed including school holidays)	X		Application form/ Interview