



Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Postdoctoral Researcher

Reports to: Emily Jones

Responsible for: NA

Grade: 7

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

The Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, (CBCD, www.cbcd.bbk.ac.uk), is seeking a Postdoctoral Research Assistant to lead work on newly funded research projects.

The post involves leading neurocognitive and brain imaging assessments on toddlers who were born premature. The Medical Research Council funded study examines sensory processing in infants/toddlers with an elevated likelihood of neurodevelopmental conditions by virtue of premature birth.

The project is conducted with the Medawar Pain and Somatosensory Labs at UCL (Dr Lorenzo Fabrizi) and the Neonatal Units at UCLH (Dr Judith Meeks) with whom the postholder will collaborate. For this role, the postholder will lead infant/toddler assessments across a variety of measures (e.g., EEG, eye tracking, behavioural assessments, wearable tech).

The post holder will be responsible for the training and supervision of research assistants and students, and will collect, process and analyse data.

The post would suit someone who has previous experience in working with neuroimaging (EEG, NIRS) and/or neurocognitive (eyetracking, behavioral) measures in infants and toddlers; has an emerging publication record; has strong statistical analysis skills as applied to neurocognitive measures; and is interested in neurodevelopmental conditions.

MAIN DUTIES

To collect a range of EEG/NIRS, eyetracking and behavioral data from infants, children and adults
To analyse a range of EEG/NIRS, eyetracking and behavioural data from infants, children and adults
To lead specific aspects of the overall research programme within CBCD under the general supervision of Professor Emily Jones
To write up research for publication
To be responsible to work as a bridge between Birkbeck and UCL ensuring continuity in longitudinal assessments/follow ups from infants recruited and initially tested at UCLH
To provide supervision and/or training of students, interns and research assistants in the use of

research methods and equipment, and project procedure
To assist in the development of student and others research skills
To take the lead in writing up research results and information about the CBCD for lay-persons to use in leaflets, on the web site and in newsletters
To deal with routine communication using a range of media
To help coordinate CBCD projects across different staff members, collaborators, and possibly different sites
To communicate complex information, and material of a specialist or highly technical nature orally, in writing, and electronically to parents, funders and the media
To assist in the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example, for funding and in the preparation/negotiation of contracts with collaborators

Please note that this job description reflects the core activities of the role and as the College and the post holder develops there will inevitably be changes in the emphasis of duties. It is expected that the post holder will recognise this and adopt a flexible approach to work and to participate in training.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND CONTACTS

People Management and Teamwork

- To work with CBCD colleagues and key collaborators as part of a team.
- To organize, attend, and/or contribute to relevant meetings
- To provide guidance to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research as required
- To manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required
- To interact with academic colleagues on areas of shared research interest

Liaison and Networking

- To liaise with colleagues, collaborators, funders and relevant community organisations
- To build internal contacts, and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration
- To liaise with external bodies to share information and identify potential recruitment and funding sources

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES – Universal to all Birkbeck roles

- To adhere to the College's Equal Opportunities policy in all activities, and to actively promote equality of opportunity wherever possible.
- To be responsible for your own health and safety and that of your colleagues, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and relevant EC directives.
- To work in accordance with Birkbeck's data protection policies, and relevant current data protection legislation.
- To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably expected.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates will be able to demonstrate the following:

KNOWLEDGE	E or D
Experience of working with neurodevelopmental conditions (in infants/toddlers/children) within a research setting	E
Experience of analysing complex multivariate datasets using advanced quantitative analyses (e.g., longitudinal modelling, machine learning)	E
Knowledge and skills in developmental research methods and techniques	E
A keen interest in the brain	E
A keen interest in neurodevelopmental conditions	E
Possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes	E
Relevant knowledge in neurodevelopmental conditions	D
TECHNICAL AND/OR WORK-BASED SKILLS	
Extensive experience with collection and analysis of neurocognitive methods like EEG, eyetracking, NIRS and behavioral assessment with infants and toddlers	E
Extensive experience with collection and analysis of sensory processing in infants/toddlers using neurocognitive methods (EEG, fNIRS, eye tracking) and/or physiological methods (heart rate, galvanic skin response)	E
Computer proficiency in standard packages (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets, email and internet use)	E
Experience working with neurocognitive data	E
Excellent data analysis skills and familiarity with developing new analytic pipelines	E
Matlab and/or R experience	E
Excellent statistical skills applicable to neurocognitive and time series and/or longitudinal data, e.g. linear mixed models	E
Familiarity with Mac OS	E
Effective oral and written communication skills, to write up complex research findings and to convey specialist/technical material	E
Skills in EEG, NIRS and/or eyetracking collection and analysis, including technical/hardware aspects of EEG data collection	D
Experience in analysing longitudinal data relevant to infant development or neurodevelopmental conditions	D
GENERAL SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES	

Excellent written and spoken English skills	E
Excellent interpersonal skills with an ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing to scientists as well as lay-people and children	E
Strong organisation and administration skills	E
Ability to work in a team proactively and a commitment to working with diversity	E
EXPERIENCE	
Experience in writing up research data for publication	E
A publication record commensurate with their career stage	E
Previous experience of contributing to research	E
Familiarity with standard research methods and techniques	E
Experience of working with complicated software/hardware	E
Experience in setting up multisite research	E
Experience of project planning and management	D
Experience in running neuroimaging studies with infants/toddlers/children	D
Experience in assisting in the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example, for funding and in the preparation	D
QUALIFICATIONS	
PhD (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area	E

E = Essential / D = Desirable

FURTHER INFORMATION

Salary:

£42,365 rising to £48,424 per annum.

The salary, as shown above, is on the College's London pay scale, which includes a consolidated weighting/allowance, which applies only to staff whose normal contractual place of work is in the Greater London area.

Hours:

35 hours per week (1 FTE)

Working pattern:

TBA

Probation period:

12 months

Duration of post:

Fixed-term 36 months

Reason for fixed-term contract:

The appointment is paid for by external funds and this money is only available for the period stated (subject to extension if there is a consequent extension of funds).

Safeguarding

Please note that this appointment will be conditional on satisfactory clearance of an enhanced check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

HOW TO APPLY

Closing date:

11.59 PM on 24 July 2024.

Interview arrangements:

Interview date is Friday 26 July. The selection process will involve:

- A panel interview
- A task: Candidates will be asked to deliver a 5 minute presentation on their research

Start date:

1 September 2024.

To apply for this position please go to our online [recruitment portal](#).

Please ensure your application includes full details of your employment history, education and qualifications, and recent development. For some roles, this will be collected in the application form, for others you will be asked to include this in a professional CV, which can

be uploaded.

If you would like to know more about the role, please contact Jannath Begum Ali, Senior Postdoctoral Researcher at jannath.begum.ali@bbk.ac.uk

RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UK

Applications from candidates who require sponsorship to work in the UK will be considered alongside other applications. Applicants who do not currently have the right to work in the UK will need to satisfy UK Visa & Immigration regulations before they can be appointed.

Further information about Sponsorship and eligibility to work in the UK, can be found on the [gov.uk immigration webpages](#).

HELP AND ASSISTANCE

If you are having difficulties accessing the recruitment portal, please email jobs@bbk.ac.uk.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The College is committed to providing the highest quality academic and working environment where all staff, students, visitors and contractors are welcomed respected and treated in a fair, consistent and non-discriminatory manner. The College is proud of its diversity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. No one will be treated unfairly because of their sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, carer status, political belief, pregnancy/maternity, social class, gender identity or marital/civil partnership.

Birkbeck is a member of the 'positive about disability' Disability Confident scheme and will interview all candidates who both declare a disability within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010 and meet the minimum essential criteria for the post, subject to any limits on the overall number of interviews.

Birkbeck is a member of Advance HE, holds an institutional Bronze level Athena SWAN award, is a Mindful Employers Charter signatory and subscribes to Stonewall's Diversity Champions.