University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Role profile

Job title	Research Assistant	Job family and level	Research and Teaching, level 4a
School/ Department	School of Medicine, Division of Clinical Neuroscience, Hearing Sciences - Scottish Section	Location	Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role will be to assist with the research on a UKRI funded programme focused on predictive mechanisms in social interaction. You will be running studies that investigate how people process speech when listening in conversation, and how this differs between people with normal and impaired hearing. Techniques that you will use include electroencephalography (EEG), eye tracking, and transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), and you will also be involved in running basic tests of hearing acuity. Aside from running studies, you will search and distil literature, pre-process data, and write up reports. You will be expected to develop an efficient workflow to keep track of multiple studies. You will work with the PI, postdoctoral staff, and students on the project, as well as engaging with the larger Hearing Sciences group.

You will be based within an established group at Hearing Sciences - Scottish Section, comprising around a dozen researchers. You will join a new team, led by Dr Lauren V Hadley, whose main areas of research include communicative interaction and hearing in natural contexts. Other colleagues in the group focus on hearing disability, hearing aids, and psychophysics.

You will have the opportunity to learn new skills and techniques, and progress to leading lab-wide training. You will also be supported in other aspects of professional development, such writing skills, statistics, or programming.

This post is based in the Glasgow satellite of the University of Nottingham

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	**% time per year**
1	**Research:** ▪ To undertake supervised research, which may include planning, preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments and fieldwork, particularly with eye-tracking and EEG or TMS paradigms within the framework of an agreed programme. ▪ To conduct literature and database searches and carry out analyses and/or tests and/or critical evaluations using specified and agreed techniques, approaches and/or models and document findings. ▪ To work in conjunction with others in the research team to achieve the research project objectives within the required timeline.	70%
2	**Engagement and Communication:**	20%

	▪ To contribute to the production of research reports and publications and prepare and present papers on research progress and outcomes to relevant groups including external bodies. ▪ To communicate information and ideas to students and advise and assist other staff/students within area of expertise.	
3	**Development:** ▪ To continue to develop skills in and knowledge of research methods and techniques and contribute to the development of/or choice of techniques, models, methods, critiques and approaches.	10%
4	**Other:** ▪ Any duties as required in accordance with the nature and grade of the post. ▪ We recognise the importance of continuous professional development and therefore the importance of providing opportunities, structured support and encouragement to engage in professional development each year	

Person specification

	Essential	**Desirable**
Skills	▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information. ▪ Technical software competence (e.g. SPSS, R, Excel, Matlab). ▪ Ability to identify and run basic analyses with quantitative datasets (e.g., ANOVA, regression etc). ▪ Ability to work across a variety of research methods to approach new methods confidently. ▪ Ability to organise work efficiently and resolve problems independently. ▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally.	▪ Ability to guide participants through unfamiliar procedures and retain their cooperation. ▪ A desire to further develop skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques.
Knowledge and experience	▪ Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills, approaches and techniques	▪ Experience running studies involving speech (listening, production, conversation etc).

	required for the role (e.g., EEG, TMS, eye-tracking, motion tracking). ▪ Experience running studies with human participants. ▪ Ability to organise and prioritise work and resource requirements to conduct research effectively	
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	▪ Degree or equivalent in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, or a related area	▪ Master's Degree, or equivalent in relevant subject area
Other	▪ Willingness to adopt the vision and values of the School of Medicine	

The University of Nottingham is focused on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

The School of Medicine holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our achievements in promoting and advancing these principles. Please see http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/about/athena-swan.aspx

Additional Information

This post is to be based in Hearing Sciences – Scottish Section, a satellite of the University of Nottingham based in Glasgow. The section's research focuses on hearing in everyday life, from measuring micro communication behaviours in state-of-the-art labs, to recording responses to real-world situations using smartphone-based techniques. This post is part of Lauren V Hadley's UKRI Future Leader Fellowship, focused on hearing in a social world (https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/future-leaders).

Our facilities include two large chambers with high-fidelity loudspeaker arrays, allowing recreation of a multitude of auditory environments, as well as motion-tracking systems to measure body movement, eye-tracking systems to measure gaze and pupil responses, and electroencephalography (EEG) systems to measure neural activity. We will soon be extending our lab to include transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) equipment.

Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

Valuing people	Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.
Taking ownership	Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.
Forward thinking	Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.
Professional pride	Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.
Always inclusive	Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

Key relationships with others