



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Assistant

School/department: School of Psychology

Hours: Full time hours considered up to 36.5 hours a week. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: fixed term for 2 years

Reference: 10213

Salary: starting at £31,411 to £35,333 per annum, pro rata if part time.

Placed on: 15 November 2022.

Closing date: 21 December 2022. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: To be confirmed.

Expected start date: 01 March 2023

Applications are invited for the post of Research Assistant (RA) in the School of Psychology to work on a project investigating the role of early motor development in emerging social and communication skills from birth to 18 months. We are specifically investigating how different motor trajectories unfold; how motor trajectories interact with social and communication abilities; and whether the variation in developmental trajectories is discernible between groups of infants at low- or high-risk for autism.

The postholder will be based at the School of Psychology at the University of Sussex, but also work with collaborating colleagues at Birkbeck, University of London. This is a full-time post, available from 1st March 2023, on a fixed term contract of 2 years. We are happy to consider requests for flexible working including part time/job shares.

This RA position is in the Comparative Cognition Group, directed by Professor Gillian Forrester. The postholder will be a member of this lab with responsibility for the provision of research support for a Simons Foundation funded project, "Identifying Early Markers of Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Naturalistic Motor Behavior using High-Frequency Sampling".

The project team will consist of a dedicated postdoctoral researcher, research assistant, and PhD student. The project will be overseen by the PI (Professor Gillian Forrester) and two Co-Investigators, Dr Ori Ossmy (Birkbeck) and Dr Georgina Donati (Birkbeck). The team will also benefit from a collaboration with the NHS Royal Free paediatric high risk infant clinic.

The postholder will be primarily involved in project and management (including social media), participant recruitment and assisting the research team with data collection. The postholder must have recruitment experience, a track-record of working with children and or families and excellent in-person and online communication skills for engaging with a wide range of individuals including caregivers, practitioners and academics. Some experience of data collection and working with technology is desirable.

This position involves working with vulnerable infants, therefore the successful candidate requires a standard DBS check

Please contact Professor Gillian Forrester (g.forrester@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

“Please note that this position may be subject to [ATAS clearance](#) if you require visa sponsorship.”

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at:
<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/schools/psychology/>

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Assistant

Department: Psychology

Section/Unit/School: School of Psychology

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Grade: 6

Responsible to: Professor Gillian Forrester

Role-specific duties

Applications are invited for the post of Research Assistant (RA) in the School of Psychology to work on a project investigating the role of early motor development in emerging social and communication skills from birth to 18 months. We are specifically investigating how different motor trajectories unfold; how motor trajectories interact with social and communication abilities; and whether the variation in developmental trajectories is discernible between groups of infants at low- or high-risk for autism.

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**This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.*

4. Person Specification

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to degree level, or other equivalent qualification, or relevant level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Good presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with colleagues and external audiences.
3. Ability to work independently (under supervision by the Principal Investigator), and as part of a team.
4. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
5. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
6. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
7. Excellent IT skills.
8. Ability to follow guidance of team leaders.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

- Experience of participant recruitment
- A track-record of working with children and/or families
- Excellent in-person and online communication skills

- A standard DBS check A satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Experience of conducting research experiments.