Loughborough University

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

FIXED TERM FOR 12 MONTHS

JOB REF: REQ15682   **October 2015**

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Grade: Research, Grade 5

Job purpose

An enthusiastic individual is sought to work with Dr Sophie Batchelor on an ESRC-funded project investigating the development of children's early numerical skills. The aim of the project is to examine links between children's informal 'spontaneous' focusing on number and their formal mathematics achievement. This will involve a range of studies carried out with preschool and primary-school-aged children, including experimental and standardised tests and classroom observations. The post is for 1 year and is available from 1st January 2016.

The successful candidate will be responsible for setting up experiments, liaising with schools and preschools to recruit participants, and collecting data. They will be involved in the input and analysis of data and they will have the opportunity to contribute to interpretation and write-up of the research.

JOB DUTIES:

1. To liaise with preschools and primary schools to recruit participants for research studies and conduct studies both at Loughborough University and at external sites.

2. To take an active role in the collation and analysis of data using a variety of methods and tools.

3. To contribute to aspects of dissemination of results such as writing methods and results sections of publications and preparing conference posters.

Job Evaluation 18/09/2015; Post Number #16857

4. To take advantage of appropriate professional development opportunities, such as conference attendance and participation in the general academic life of the Mathematics Education Centre.

5. To contribute to the design and development of experimental studies, including use of computerised experimental software.

6. To take part in dissemination activities involving academics, teachers and the general public.

7. Any other duties appropriate to the grade and role of the post holder.

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Reports to: Dr Sophie Batchelor
Responsible for: none

MATHEMATICS EDUCATION CENTRE

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title: Research Assistant

Job Grade: Research Grade 5

	Essential	Desirable	Stage to be assessed
Qualification / Education	A good honours degree, or equivalent, in psychology (or a related subject).		1
	Interest and knowledge in developmental or educational psychology (e.g., final year project or options).		1,3
		Interest in the learning of mathematics.	1,3
Skills / Training	Familiarity with statistical software (e.g. SPSS and Excel, or equivalent).		1,3
	Methodological skills appropriate for the research project, including quantitative data analysis.		2,3
	The ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with colleagues, teachers and parents.		1,3
		Familiarity with	1,3

		experiment generator software (e.g. ePrime or equivalent).	
Experience	Experience of running relevant psychology experiments.		1,2,3
	Experience of working with young children.		1,3
		Experience of writing academic reports or delivering academic presentations.	1,3
		Experience of working in a primary school classroom.	1,3
Personal Attributes	Good interpersonal skills that can be applied to interactions with child participants in the study, their parents and teachers.		3
	Excellent organisational and communication skills.		1,3
		Ability to travel independently throughout the East Midlands.	3

Stages in assessment: 1: application form at shortlisting, 2. selection test, 3. interview.

Conditions of Service

Job Evaluation 18/09/2015; Post Number #16857

The post is available from 1st January 2016 and is full-time, for 12 months. The salary will be on Research scale, Grade 5, ranging from £23,386 to £27,864.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for **Research Grade 5** staff, details of which can be found at:

http://www.lboro.ac.uk/media/wwwlboroacuk/content/humanresources/downloads/researchgd5cos_v1.pdf

Due to the nature of this appointment there will be a requirement for a formal Criminal Records Bureau check of the successful applicant.

Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to Dr Sophie Batchelor, Research Fellow, Mathematics Education Centre, Loughborough University, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, e-mail: s.m.batchelor@lboro.ac.uk.

Applications

The closing date for receipt of applications is **11th November 2015**.

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a health work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised placed, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/. In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements.

We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/.