

## Research Associate *Centre for Mathematical Cognition*

Job Ref: REQ240499

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

### Project Description

With support from the Higher Education Innovation Fund, Loughborough University is seeking to appoint a highly motivated and skilled Research Associate to join the Centre for Mathematical Cognition (CMC) for 10 months, starting on 01/10/2024. The project will involve the validation and standardisation of a new, research-informed digital resource for screening schoolchildren and university students for mathematics learning difficulties. The purpose of this position is to recruit a large sample of participants across different levels of education, develop age-appropriate guidelines for test administration, analyse the results, create reports of individual test performance, and help with developing a website and promotional materials for the resource. Applicants should have a PhD (or near completion) or equivalent experience in psychology, mathematics education, or a related discipline, and a desire to work in an interdisciplinary centre focused on mathematics learning.

### Job Description

**Job Grade:** Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

#### Job Purpose: PDRA Research

The project will involve the validation and standardisation of a new research-informed digital resource for screening schoolchildren and university students for mathematics learning difficulties. The postholder will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the project, the recruitment of participants, collecting and analysing data, helping to develop a website and promotional materials for the project, and writing reports and scientific publications in collaboration with the other investigators.

#### Job Duties

- Work with the other investigators to develop a commercially available screening tool for mathematics learning difficulties in schoolchildren and university students.
- Be responsible for the day-to-day running of the project.
- Prepare detailed plans for the project, based on broad guidance from the project team.
- Develop and deliver processes to ensure secure digital data collection and collation.
- Comply with ethical procedures and data protection requirements and ensure that intellectual property (IPR) agreements are not violated.
- Feed back to the project team on progress and make recommendations for next steps.
- Provide regular progress reports and present outcomes to internal and external partners.
- Travel for the purposes of recruitment and data collection.
- Write research papers suitable for publication in high quality academic journals.
- Contribute ideas for new research activities.

- Contribute to impact and knowledge-exchange activities.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the project and those of the Department.
- Undertake other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

### **Points To Note**

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

### **Special Conditions**

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.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

### **Organisational Responsibility**

Reports to Dr Kinga Morsanyi

## Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Your application will be reviewed against the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 2 – Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 – Interview

### Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Background in psychology, mathematics education or a related discipline	1
	Experience in conducting relevant research studies	1,3
Skills and abilities	Proficiency in managing digital research data collection and collation	1,3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1,3
	Working knowledge of statistical software packages (e.g., R, SPSS, JASP, etc)	1
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1,3
	Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills	1,3
	Ability to write project reports and deliver technical presentations to industrial and academic research groups	1
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	3
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) or equivalent experience	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times.	3
	Eligible to work with children - an enhanced DBS check may be required.	3

### Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience conducting research in mathematical cognition	1,3
	Experience working with children	1,3
	Experience engaging with schools in a research context	1,3
	Experience working in a high-quality academic research environment	1
Skills and abilities	Authoring original work, in the highest quality refereed academic journals	1
	A strong publication track record	1

## Conditions of Service

The position is FULL TIME and FIXED TERM for 10 months. Salary will be on Specialist and supporting academic grade 6, £33,966- £44,263 per annum, at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment. The appointment will be subject to the University's Terms and Conditions of Employment for STAFF GRADES 6 AND ABOVE, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which can be found [here](#).

The University offers a wide range of employee benefits which can be found [here](#).

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, 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/childcare-information---page.html>)

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/>

## **Applications**

The closing date for receipt of applications is **19 June 2024**.