

Research Associate in Educational Technology

Transforming University Learning and Assessment Around the World

Job Ref: REQ251049

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.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

Following a successful externally-funded programme of research into 'comparative judgement' approaches to educational assessment, Loughborough University is seeking to appoint a highly-motivated Research Associate to join the Department of Mathematics Education. The project will develop and promote educational technology that supports comparative judgement approaches to peer assessment and feedback to universities around the world.

The project aims to:

- update and expand a Moodle-based comparative judgement plug-in (see https://moodle.org/plugins/assignsubmission_comparativejudgement) plug-in to improve functionality and usability;
- update and expand the online user-guidance and promotional materials that support the plug-in (see <https://tinyurl.com/4rjpw3dn>);
- increase the number of universities and other educational institutions using the plug-in;
- increase the number of lecturers using the app in their teaching practice across different disciplines.

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6

Job Purpose

The postholder will be expected to work independently and take the lead in day-to-day management of specific project activities under the supervision of the Principal Investigator Professor Ian Jones. In collaboration with investigators the postholder will design, organise and carry out project activities including working with a team of programmers to undertake testing of the plug-in, conducting and analysing interviews with lecturers, and working with early adopters of the plug-in to develop promotional materials and online user guidance. The postholder will be supported by the project team with analysing and interpreting collected qualitative data, as well as preparing draft manuscripts of reports with opportunities for journal publication and presenting at conferences.

Job Duties

- Be responsible for the day to day running of project activities.
- Undertake testing of the comparative judgement plug-in in close collaboration with the Principal Investigator.
- Provide feedback to and liaise with a team of programmers.

- Liaise with a small group of lecturers who are early adopters of the plug-in.
- Set up, populate and maintain (with project team support) mail-lists and a website for the project.
- Conduct and analyse interviews and focus groups (online and in-person) with lecturers across different disciplines.
- Develop updated and expanded online user guidance and promotional materials in close collaboration with the project Co-Investigator.
- Carry out desk research to collect, organise and present evidence of comparative judgement in education.
- Comply with ethical procedures and data protection requirements.
- Contribute to project reports, and work with the project team to draft manuscripts suitable for publication in high-quality academic journals.
- Travel to attend meetings and promote the plug-in and project including at conferences.
- Engage in training programmes in the University (or elsewhere) that are consistent with the needs of the project.
- 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 Equity & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equity & 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 the Principal Investigator of the project Professor Ian Jones. The project team also includes Co-Investigator Dr Thomas Francome at Loughborough University.

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 education, design or other discipline relevant to the project	1
	Conducting research involving interviews, focus groups or related qualitative methods	1,3
	Collaborating with academics and other professionals	1,3
	Working with technology to a high level such as programming, web development or software testing	1,2,3
	Authoring original work for academic journal papers, conference papers or technical reports	1
Skills and abilities	Working knowledge of qualitative data collection and analysis	1,3
	Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills	1,3
	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1,2,3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1,3
	Ability to make technical presentations to industry and/or academic research groups	1,2
	Knowledge of relevant Health & Safety issues	1
Training	Demonstrate evidence of having undertaken further training	1
Qualifications	PhD (or near completion) in education, design or other discipline relevant to the project	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	1,3
	Willingness to present project outcomes at international conferences	1,3

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Creating publishable materials for end users	1,3
	Working in a high-quality academic research environment	1
Skills and abilities	Knowledge of thematic analysis or related methods	1,3
	Knowledge of Moodle, GitHub, R, PHP, SQL, HTML	1,3
	Knowledge of statistical methods such as maximum likelihood estimation	1,3
Other	Ability to motivate and inspire busy professionals who are volunteering their time	1,3

Conditions of Service

The position is FULL TIME and FIXED TERM for 1 year. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 6, £35,608- £46,049 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 **Thursday 15 January 2026**. Interviews will be held on **Thursday 22 January 2026**.