

PLACEMENT STUDENT (Centre for Early Mathematics Learning)

Job Ref: REQ260115

Department summary:

The Centre for Early Mathematics Learning (CEML) was established following a £10m grant from the ESRC. The Centre is led by Loughborough University in collaboration with academics from seven other universities across the UK.

CEML aims to transform research in early mathematics education by revealing new understanding of children's early mathematical learning, designing and evaluating educational resources based on the science of mathematical learning, and working with teachers, early years practitioners and families to translate these findings to practice.

Further information about the Centre and its research can be found at: www.ceml.ac.uk

Job Description

Job Family and Grade: Placement Student x 4 – Grade 3

Job Purpose:

We have four vacancies for motivated undergraduate BSc students to undertake a study placement (2026/2027) within the Centre for Early Mathematics Learning. The placement student would have the opportunity to get involved with the Centre's ongoing research studies as well as with activities related to the running of an international research centre (e.g., marketing, events, research communication).

Research studies that the student may be involved with include:

- Nursery-based studies of preschool children's early mathematics learning.
- School-based studies investigating the cognitive skills involved in mathematics achievements.
- Lab-based cognitive psychology experiments with adults.
- Online surveys and in-person focus groups with early years practitioners and school teachers.

Job Duties:

Over the course of the placement the student will be involved in a variety of activities to give them a range of experience. Activities may include:

- Supporting the development of study materials for online or in-person research studies and setting up technical requirements.
- Conducting cognitive behavioural tasks or standardised assessments following training.
- Assisting in the recruitment of adult participants for research studies.
- Assisting in the collection of data both at the University and other locations, under supervision of staff members.
- Entering data into software packages and preparing data for analysis.
- Supporting marketing activities and the communication of the centre's research.

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.

The successful candidate will be required to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

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 the: Senior Lecturer in Mathematical Cognition

Direct Reports: N/A

Budget Responsibilities: N/A

Person Specification

Your application will be assessed based on the essential and desirable criteria listed below.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explicitly demonstrate how they meet each essential (and desirable) criteria at the application stage. The criteria that you need to demonstrate in your application will be listed as Stage 1 in the table below.

Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Criteria measured within the Application
- 2 – Criteria measured at Test/Assessment Centre/Presentation
- 3 - Criteria measured at Interview

Essential Criteria:

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of working individually and as part of a team	1,3
Skills and abilities	Ability to work as part of a team and to collaborate with others	1,3
	Excellent organisational and time management skills with the ability to multi-task	1,3
	Ability to work on own initiative with efficiency, accuracy and excellent attention to detail	1,3
	Ability to use statistical programs	1,3
	Excellent oral communication skills	1,3
	Ability to maintain confidentiality	1,3
	Ability to work as part of a team and to collaborate with others	1,3
	Excellent organisational and time management skills with the ability to multi-task	1,3
Training	Willingness to undertake appropriate further training and to adopt new procedures as and when required	1,3
Qualifications	Successful completion of two years of a relevant degree course, including psychology or psychology in education	1

Other	Uphold and actively contribute to the University's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.	1,3
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Desirable Criteria: These are skills, experience and competencies that are additional extras that may be used to narrow the pool down if we receive a high volume of applications that meet the essential criteria.

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience in contributing to research studies involving human participants	1,3
	Experience working with children in an employment or voluntary capacity	1,3
	Experience in preschools and/or primary schools	1,3

Conditions of Service

The appointment will be subject to the [University's Terms and Conditions of Employment](#) relevant to the job grade.

Shared University Responsibilities

As a member of the Loughborough community, you are expected to:

- Take reasonable care of yourself, others and the environment, and to prevent harm by your acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Sustainability Policies & Procedures.
- Support and contribute to the University's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), while carrying out all duties in a way that respects these principles and upholds the right to free expression. Further information about EDI at Loughborough and our strategic aims is available on our website.

Our Purpose, Vision, and Values

Our purpose, Vision and Values underpin all that we do and shape how we work together at Loughborough.

We're proud to promote our values: **Adventurous, Collaborative, Creative, Authentic** and **Responsible**. Our people bring these values to life every day, and they are central to the positive and supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

If you join us, you'll be encouraged to bring these values to life in your own work and contribute to the positive, supportive culture that makes Loughborough unique.

Read more about our [vision and values](#).

Our Accreditations



We strive to create a culture that supports equity 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 career.



We are proud to be a [Race Equality Charter Member](#). The Charter aims to improve the representation, progression and success of all minority ethnic staff and students within higher education and address issues of racism within higher education institutions (HEIs).



We are proud to be a Disability Confident Employer and have adopted a proactive approach to employing disabled people and to creating a more diverse workforce. We ensure that our recruitment processes are inclusive and accessible. We guarantee to offer an interview to all applicants who have declared a disability, provided that the essential criteria for the role are met. We proactively anticipate and provide reasonable adjustments and support existing employees who acquire a disability or long-term condition to thrive in the workplace.



We are a real living wage employer, and our Living Wage Employer Mark shows our commitment to paying our staff according to the cost of living.



We are proud supporters of the [City of Sanctuary movement](#) and delighted to be recognised as a University of Sanctuary. This national network brings together, university staff, lecturers, academics, and students, who together work to make Higher Education institutions places of safety, solidarity and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary.

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.