Research Assistant (part-time 50%)
School of Psychology

Closing date: 21 May 2019
Interview date: TBC
Reference number: PSY027R
Introduction

This post is supported by a BBSRC award to Dr Søren K. Andersen entitled: “A quantitative framework of attentional selection”. It will be offered for a period of 10 months from the 1st of June 2019. This appointment will be made subject to the usual terms and conditions of employment of the University.

The appointee will assist Dr Andersen (principal investigator) and Dr Adamian (post-doctoral researcher) in scheduling participants, collecting behavioural and EEG data and other research related tasks.

This project combines state of the art electrophysiological and cognitive modelling techniques in order to enhance our understanding of how attention supports adaptive behaviour. The main objective of the project is to develop a quantitative model of visual attention that directly links electrophysiological measures of stimulus processing in visual cortex with behavioural outcomes. Steady-state visual evoked potentials (SSVEPs) will be recorded in order to assess attentional modulation in visual areas and these will be compared to parameters obtained from drift diffusion modelling of behavioural data.
Main purpose of the role:

The Research Assistant will help to set up experiments and coordinate and conduct data collection. The Research Assistant will be involved in all stages of the research process. Specifically, he or she will be expected to independently schedule participants and collect EEG data and assist with other aspects of the research such as ethics applications, experimental design and set-up, to assist with data analysis and interpretation.

Applicants should have an undergraduate degree in Psychology or other relevant discipline, and have a record of experimental research, preferably in cognitive neuroscience and/or visual psychophysics, as well as basic MATLAB knowledge. Experience with EEG is highly desirable.

Key responsibilities:

Research Assistant

- Recruit and schedule participants
- Collect and record data using behavioural tasks and EEG
- Co-ordinate with other members of research team
- Assist with setting up experiments and data processing
- Contribute to the production of research reports and publications

At a glance

Salary:
50% of £27,831 per annum, pro rata

Hours of work:
Part-time, 50% of full-time, 18.75 hours

Contract type:
Project limited, 10 months
Candidate background

We are looking to appoint a research assistant (50%) who holds an undergraduate degree in psychology (or other relevant discipline and ideally has some experience with EEG data collection and analysis. The candidate should be able to work as part of a team but also independently and have good verbal and written communication skills. Some basic programming skills in Matlab and R would be beneficial.

Terms of appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 5 salary scale (50% of £27,831, per annum, pro rata).

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a 6 month probation period.

As this post is externally funded by BBSRC it is available for 10 months.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This post does not meet the minimum requirements as issued by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) to qualify for an employer-sponsored visa. We are therefore unable to consider applications from candidates for this post who require sponsorship to work in the UK.
# Person specification

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<th>Education/Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Academic, technical and professional education and training</strong></td>
<td>• Undergraduate degree in psychology or other relevant discipline</td>
<td>• Postgraduate Degree in Research</td>
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<th>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research</td>
<td>• Experience in designing, setting up, conducting and analysing behavioural experiments.</td>
<td>• Experience in designing, setting up, conducting and analysing EEG experiments.</td>
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<td>• Basic knowledge of MATLAB (or other coding language)</td>
<td>• Good knowledge of MATLAB</td>
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<td>• Good knowledge in statistics</td>
<td>• Knowledge of R</td>
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<td>• Experience in analysing behavioural data</td>
<td>• Background knowledge of Attention research</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Background knowledge and research experience in cognitive neuroscience or visual psychophysics</td>
<td>• Experience with publishing scientific work</td>
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<tr>
<th>Personal qualities and abilities</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills</td>
<td>• Conscientious</td>
<td>• Interest in developing own research ideas and devising new experiments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Good oral and written communication skills</td>
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<td>• Ability to work in a team</td>
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<th>Other</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<td>eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.</td>
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The University

Founded in 1495, Aberdeen is Scotland’s third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 160 in the Times Higher Education Rankings 2019 and named Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019. Aberdeen is ‘open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others’.

Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, which puts students at the head of everything it does. It has significant academic strengths and potential across a wide variety of disciplines. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen has also been credited for its international reach and its commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies.

The University has over 14,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges, inspires and helps every individual to reach their full potential.

The University combines a distinguished heritage with a forward looking attitude. In the past few years, the University has encouraged creativity in its academic staff, broken new ground with an innovative curriculum, and developed state-of-the-art facilities including the new Sir Duncan Rice Library and the Aberdeen Sports Village and Aquatics Centre. In looking to the future, the University seeks to enhance its reputation as one of the world’s leading Universities by moving forward with ever more ground breaking research; ensuring students have an intellectual and social experience second to none; and capitalising upon the dual role as one of the major institutions of the north and as a cornerstone of regional economic and cultural life.
The city and the region

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

With a population of approximately 230,000, the city stands between the Rivers Dee and Don. This historic city has many architectural splendours and the use of its sparkling local granite has earned Aberdeen the name of the Silver City. Recognised as the oil capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live.

Aberdeen enjoys excellent communication services with other European cities - e.g. flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights. There are direct air links to London (City, Gatwick, Heathrow, and Luton), Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Southampton, Belfast and East Midlands within the U.K. There are also flights to international hub airports: Amsterdam (Schiphol), Paris (Charles De-Gaulle) and Frankfurt as well as flights to other European destinations. http://www.aberdeenairport.com Road and rail links are also well developed.

The Grampian Region which took its name from the Grampian Mountains has a population of approximately 545,000. It is made up of five districts – Aberdeen, Banff & Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside and Moray. The city and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, sea-side and country pursuits. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty’s Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the Aberdeen Exhibition Centre, Museums, and Beach Leisure centre. Within a short time, beach pursuits, equine activities, salmon, trout and sea fishing, hill-walking, mountaineering, golf, sailing, surfing and windsurfing can be reached. The city and the surrounding countryside are repeatedly given high ratings for quality of life in surveys.

Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland’s most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire cater for a wide range of tastes in sporting and cultural activities.

To find out more about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to www.visitabdn.com
How to apply

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 19 April 2019

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact
Dr Søren K. Andersen, School of Psychology
01224 274240
skandersen@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Dr Andersen

Please quote reference number PSY027R on all correspondence

The University pursues a policy of equal opportunities in the appointment and promotion of staff.