

Position / Job Title: Part-time Research Assistant

Project title: Probing the distortion of a visual search template (RED ID 14356)

Ref:

Location/Building: Poole House, Talbot Campus

Faculty/Professional Service: Faculty of Science and Technology

Group/Section: Psychology

Duration if Temporary: Fixed Term Until 31/08/2025

Normal Hours per Week: 12 hours

Grade: 4

Accountable to: Dr Chris Brown, Senior Lecturer

Job Purpose

To undertake research activity as part of the Leverhulme Trust funded project exploring how objects are mentally represented in attention during visual search, under the direction of Dr Chris Brown. The project will involve the measurement of behavioural and neural indices of attention during a visual search task, using electrophysiological (EEG) techniques in the laboratory in Poole House. The primary role in this position is to assist with participant recruitment, experiment setup and administration, and testing of participants. The research requires the recruitment of approximately 150 participants across the yearlong period. Experience recruiting and running psychological experiments in a laboratory setting is a required skill for this role; and though not essential, experience with EEG methods is desirable. Training and supervision will be provided in the setup and maintenance of the EEG equipment, with the expectation that the research assistant will be able to run the project independently later in the project.

Main Responsibilities

1. Recruitment of participants for in person experiments from a range of sources (i.e., social media, posters, SONA participant pool). Participants will be from the general population (including students) and will be aged 18 – 40.
2. Assist with the organisation and running of the testing schedule, including liaising with participants.
3. Setting up of behavioural experiment software (i.e., PsychoPy), and EEG equipment and software (i.e., Biosemi EEG system).
4. Prepare documentation, for example, Research Ethical Governance and associated paperwork including consent, participant information sheets, etc.
5. Supervising the completion of the experiment by participants in the EEG laboratory at Poole House, Talbot campus. Including communicating the task instructions to participants.
6. Conduct preliminary data analysis and data management in accordance with ethical guidelines, including uploading data to shared folder, and extracting basic performance data.
7. Assist with the maintenance of electrophysiological equipment, including applying and cleaning gel electrode caps.

Contacts:

PI Dr Chris Brown: cbrown1@bournemouth.ac.uk

Information Governance Responsibilities

Data User: Comply with the associated data protection, information security, information management and information technology regulations, policies, processes and procedures.

Additional Information

NB:

The purpose of the job description is to indicate the general level of responsibility and location of the position. The duties may vary from time to time without changing their general character or level of responsibility.

BU is an equal opportunities employer which values a diverse workforce. The post holder must at all times carry out their responsibilities with due regard to the University's Dignity, Diversity and Equality Policy Statement.

Our highly skilled and creative workforce is comprised of individuals drawn from a broad cross section of the globe, and who reflect a variety of backgrounds, talents, perspectives and experiences to build our global learning community. Through fused activity, the post holder must have an understanding of and commitment to promoting a global outlook.

All employees have an obligation to be aware of the University's Sustainability Policy, Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan, Travel Plan and associated documents, and to ensure that they carry out their day-to-day activities in an environmentally responsible manner and inspire students to do the same.

Position / Job Title: Research Assistant	Faculty / Service: Faculty of Science and Technology
Position No:	Date: September 2024
SELECTION CRITERIA	Essential / Desirable
Knowledge (including experience & qualifications)	
Expertise in running behavioural experiments – at least to undergraduate level	E
Experience in recruiting participants for research projects.	E
Knowledge of cognitive psychological research methods.	E
Knowledge of research methods in the area of visual attention	D
Experience of setting up and maintaining EEG equipment.	D
Experience with EEG analysis software (e.g., Bio-semi).	D
Skills	
Ability to effectively run psychological experiments in a laboratory setting.	E
Excellent communication skills	E
Excellent data management skills (e.g., Excel, SPSS)	E
Strong organisation and administrative skills	E
Ability to conduct research independently	D
Attributes	
Analytical	E
Commitment to high quality research	E
Communicative	E
Organised	E