 Job Description

Position/Job Title:	**Postdoctoral Research Assistant**
Ref:	**548**
Location including building:	**Poole House, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University**
School/Service:	**School of Psychology**
Group/Section:	**Psychology**
Grade:	**6**
Duration if temporary:	**26 months**
Normal hours per week: (Some flexibility will be required in order to ensure that key time scales and deadlines are met).	**Full time**
Accountable to:	**Line manager, Dr Janice Attard-Johnson**

Job Purpose

The Postdoctoral Research Assistant will be part of a new research project '**Innate and Learned Proficiencies in Facial Age Estimation**' funded by The Leverhulme Trust and led by Dr Janice Attard-Johnson with co-lead Professor Sarah Bate, in the School of Psychology which sits within the Faculty of Media, Science & Technology. The project will undertake a comprehensive approach to examining the theoretical underpinnings of facial age estimation and its application to real-world security settings. The project will use experimental methods in cognitive psychology which will involve the use of eye-tracking technology and recruitment of specialist participant populations, and the post holder will be central to the implementation of the project.

The individual will work with the whole management team and be managed by Dr Janice Attard-Johnson, Principal Academic in the School of Psychology at Bournemouth University.

Main Responsibilities

To work alongside the project team on:

1. Theoretical and experimental approaches to investigating facial age perception;

2. Preparing materials for experiments which may include using image manipulation software to edit stimuli required for experiments;

3. Programming of experiments, including both behavioural experiments and eye-tracking tasks (Eyelink-1000) to a high methodical standard for scientific research;

4. Recruitment of participants, including specialist populations which may require communication with external organisations and handling of sensitive data and information;

5. Data collection both online and in the laboratory;

6. Management of data in accordance with a data management plan, as well as data processing and analysis using JASP, and RStudio or MATLAB;

7. Engage regularly in meetings with the project team contributing to the intellectual discussions involving key decisions on research directions, methodologies, and interpretations of findings;

8. Writing of research papers for refereed journals and presenting results at national and international conferences;

9. Carry out other project related practical and administrative duties as required.

Organisation Chart

The post holder with report to line manager Dr Janice Attard-Johnson, Principal Academic, School of Psychology.

Contacts

The post holder will be expected to be self-motivated, be capable of managing their own time, and be able to work effectively with minimal supervision. The work will include liaising with the project team, technical and support staff within the Faculty, and with staff at all levels within external organisations.

Challenges

This post requires excellent project management and research skills. The individual must also possess excellent interpersonal and team working skills, and be able to produce clear, well-illustrated reports to publication standard.

Information Governance Responsibilities

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

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 postholder must have an understanding of and commitment to promoting a global outlook.

All employees have an obligation to be aware of and comply with the Universities Sustainability Policy, Carbon Management Plan and associated documents, and to ensure that whilst at work that they demonstrate the adoption of sustainable habits or practices and carry out their day-to-day activities in an environmentally responsible manner.

December 2025

 Job Description

Position / Job Title: Postdoctoral Research Assistant Position No: TBC Faculty/Service: Faculty of Media, Science and Technology, School of Psychology Date: December 2025	
SELECTION CRITERIA	**E**ssential / **D**esirable
Knowledge (including experience & qualifications) (D in order of priority)	
A relevant Doctorate in Psychology/Cognitive Psychology/Neuroscience	E
Significant research experience	E
Fluent English written and verbal	E
Good knowledge and experience in research on visual/person/face perception	D
Good knowledge and experience with programming experiments (inc. eye-tracking)	E
Experience with collecting experimental and eye-tracking data	E
Experience with data handling, processing, and analysis (inc. RStudio and/or MATLAB)	E
Experience of project management	D
Research active with some evidence of publications and/or conference papers	E
Skills	
Research and writing skills to publishable standard	E
Ability to manage time excellently to meet set timelines and deadlines	E
Excellent interpersonal skills	E
Ability to work well both as a team member and on own initiative	E
Ability to communicate well at all levels within the project team	E
Ability to communicate well at all levels with external organisations	E
Ability to use image manipulation software to prepare high quality experimental stimuli	E
Ability to use experimental programming software (such as Python, Testable, Experiment Builder)	E
Ability to manage data confidentially and sensitively	E
Attributes	
Self –motivated to achieve the requirements and demands of the role	E
Self-reliant and pro-active	E
Commitment to promoting and achieving the project targets and objectives of the project	E
Ability to work under pressure managing a variety of activities within tight timescales and budgets	E