

Job Description

Title	Details
Job title	Post-Doctoral Research Associate
Department/Unit	Philosophy, School of Philosophy Politics & Economics
Job Type	Full time, Fixed term for 12 months
Grade	Grade 6
Accountable to	Dr Jumbly Grindrod
Accountable for	N/A
Vacancy reference	SRF54208
Additional Information	N/A

Purpose

The postholder will be on the AHRC Catalyst project *Large Language Models as Philosophical Inquiry*, based in the Department of Philosophy. The project investigates whether large language models can serve as scientific models of public languages, and the postholder will provide technical expertise for its empirical strand: designing and conducting model-analysis studies of philosophically significant linguistic phenomena within LLMs, working alongside Dr Grindrod as Principal Investigator.

Team Structure

The postholder will be line-managed by and work closely with the Principal Investigator, Dr Jumbly Grindrod. They will be based in the Department of Philosophy, within the School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and will be a member of the Mind and Language Centre that is based within the philosophy department.

Main duties and responsibilities

Research

- Design and carry out studies analysing how large language models handle selected linguistic phenomena, in collaboration with the Principal Investigator.
- Analyse and interpret the results of those studies and maintain code and datasets so that the project's empirical work is transparent and reproducible.
- Contribute to the writing of papers for publication in leading academic journals and other relevant media.
- Disseminate findings through participation in conferences and workshops.

- Develop the postholder's own research interests alongside the project, with time and support to do so.

Project support

- Support the organisation of a special issue of the journal *Ratio* arising from the project.
- Support the organisation of the project conference and any other project events and undertake related project administration.

Department contribution

- Contribute to the research life of the philosophy department and the Mind and Language centre, including participation in seminars and reading groups.

Supervision received

The postholder will primarily receive supervision from the principal investigator. They will also be able to draw upon the support of the project mentor, Prof. Doug Saddy.

Supervision given

The postholder will not give supervision as part of the role.

Contact

Dr Jumbly Grindrod

Terms and conditions

This role is full time, fixed term for 12 months (starting on 1st February 2027)

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: 15/09/2026

Person Specification

Job Title	School/Department
Post-Doctoral Research Associate	Department of Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Which stage these Criteria be assessed

A = Application

I = Interview

P = Presentation/Pre task/Other

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	- Strong programming skills in Python and experience with standard machine learning and natural language processing libraries (A and P) - Ability to communicate technical work clearly to non-specialist audiences (P and I) - Ability to work independently and to manage own research within an agreed programme (I)	
Attainment	A doctoral degree, awarded or with thesis submitted by the start date, in natural language processing, computational linguistics, machine learning or a cognate discipline (A)	
Knowledge		Familiarity with philosophy of language (A and I)
Relevant Experience	Experience of analysing the internal representations or computational behaviour of large language models, using methods such as probing, representational analysis, or feature- and	- Experience of interdisciplinary research collaboration (A and I) - Experience of academic event organisation and/or

	circuit-level interpretability techniques (A and P) • Experience of designing empirical studies and applying appropriate statistical methods to their analysis (A and I) • A record of producing peer-reviewed publications in reputable journals or well-respected conference proceedings (A)	editorial work, such as convening conferences or workshops or guest-editing a journal special issue (A and I)
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Completed By: Dr Jumbly Grindrod

Date: 15/09/2026