

Job Description

Title		Details
Job title		Postdoctoral Research Associate
Department/Unit		PCLS
Job Type		Fixed Term
Grade		Grade 6
Accountable to		Dr. Yaling Hsiao
Accountable for		PhD students and research assistants
Vacancy reference		SRF54299
Additional Information		This role is subject to Safer Recruitment processes and requires a DBS

Purpose

The School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences is seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Associate to work with Dr Yaling Hsiao on the Leverhulme Trust-funded project Literacy in the Digital Age: How Children Learn from Multimedia Written Language.

The postholder will contribute to the design and delivery of behavioural and experimental research investigating how children's reading and writing experiences across traditional and digital media shape literacy development. The role will involve developing and piloting experimental methods, coordinating and conducting research with child participants, managing and analysing behavioural data, and contributing to the preparation and dissemination of research findings. The postholder will work closely with the Principal Investigator and other members of the interdisciplinary research team to integrate behavioural research with corpus analysis and computational modelling.

The post is a full-time, fixed-term appointment for 4 years and is available due to research funding from the Leverhulme Trust.

Team Structure

The core research team will include two Postdoctoral Research Associates, two PhD students, and Research Assistants working across three interconnected Work Packages.

Main duties and responsibilities

Research Design and Delivery: Design and conduct behavioural and experimental studies.

Data Collection and Analysis: Coordinate data collection with child participants. Manage and analyse behavioural research data using appropriate statistical methods.

Team Support and Supervision: Mentor PhD students in research design and methodology. Supervise Research Assistants undertaking recruitment, data collection, and coding.

Research Outputs and Collaboration: Work with the research team to interpret findings and prepare publications, presentations, and other research outputs. Ensure outputs are delivered to agreed deadlines.

Supervision received

The postholder will report to Dr Yaling Hsiao, the Principal Investigator and project lead. The postholder will work with general guidance from the Principal Investigator on research objectives, project priorities, and timelines, with regular meetings to discuss progress and address any issues. The postholder will be expected to work independently in planning and delivering day-to-day research activities, with more detailed guidance provided where required for specific methodological or project-related matters.

Supervision given

The postholder will provide general guidance and mentoring to PhD students in research design and methodology and will supervise Research Assistants undertaking participant recruitment, data collection, and coding. The postholder will provide day-to-day guidance on research activities and ensure that delegated tasks are completed accurately and within agreed timelines, with overall supervision provided by the Principal Investigator.

Contact

On a day-to-day basis, the post holder should expect to have contact with the team members, and academic and professional services colleagues at PCLS.

Terms and conditions

The post is full-time, with working hours normally undertaken during standard University working hours. Occasional flexibility may be required to accommodate research activities, including data collection with schools and child participants, conferences, and other project-related events.

Due to the nature of the role and our commitment to safe guarding, this role requires a DBS.

Safeguarding responsibilities related to this post

Please see more information here

[Disclosure and Barring Service](#)

[Safeguarding Policy](#)

Date assessed: 1/9/2026

Person Specification

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Associate	PCLS

Which stage these Criteria be assessed -

A = Application

I = Interview

P = Presentation/Pre task/Other

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	- Strong quantitative, statistical, or computational programming skills (A, I) - A record of academic publishing and high-quality written communication. (A) - Strong organizational skills to manage project workflows (A) - Excellent interpersonal and management skills to mentor PhD students, supervise project Research Assistants, and liaise with partner schools (A, I)	- Expertise in custom experimental software (e.g., Gorilla, REDCap) or computational tools (Python, R, Git) (A, I) - Experience in designing engaging outreach/dissemination materials for non-academic audiences (teachers/parents/children) (A, I)
Attainment	A PhD (or near completion) in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Computational Linguistics, Linguistics, Computer Science, or a related field. (A)	Training in advanced statistics, structural equation modeling (SEM), Natural Language Processing (NLP), or deep learning (A, I)
Knowledge	- Comprehensive understanding of theories and empirical paradigms in child language acquisition, literacy development, or psycholinguistics (A, I, P) - A solid theoretical background in literacy development, child language acquisition, or psycholinguistics. (A, I, P)	Specialist knowledge in child digital media exposure (A, I)
Relevant Experience	- Experience conducting psychological research (behavioural testing) (A, I, P) - Experience in conducting research/data collection with	Experience supervising or mentoring postgraduate/undergraduate research students or research assistants (A, I)

	children in educational settings (A, I)	• Experience building, curating, or analyzing large-scale text corpora (A, I) • Experience publishing research in peer-reviewed academic journals (A)
Other	• Enhanced DBS check required prior to appointment (A) • Commitment to Open Science and transparent research practices (A, I) • Willingness to travel to partner schools for data collection (A, I)	

Completed By Dr. Yaling Hsiao

Date 28/8/2026