

Research Associate / Senior Research Associate in Visual Neurophysiology (Eye Tracking)

1 JOB DESCRIPTION

Faculty / School or Division: Bristol Medical School (Population Health Sciences)

Faculty/School or Division Address: Centre for Academic Child Health, Canynge Hall, Bristol BS8 2PS

Job Family:	Research and Teaching		
Grade/Pathway:	I or J / Pathway 2	Salary range:	I: £40,704 – £45,641 J: £45,641 - £51,258 per annum pro rata
Hours of work:	17.5 h per week	Contract type:	Fixed term for 6 months or earlier return of the postholder from maternity leave
Work pattern:	Part time / 0.5FTE	Vacancy Reference Number: ACAD108755	

1.1 Main Job Purpose

This is a maternity cover research associate position for the development and running of the EyeTrain RCT study. In this study we are trialling a therapeutic app intervention for children with poor eye movement control, with the aim of improving saccadic and smooth pursuit eye movements. The role will support the running of this study, including eye tracking of the children before, during and after treatment with the app. This will be done alongside clinicians who will have not used an eye tracker before, so the successful candidate will also help support and train these clinicians. The job will also involve further fine-tuning of the protocol for eye tracking the children (which has already been developed by the current team) and further development of the analysis pipeline for the eye tracking data.

1.2 Main Statement of Responsibilities

Research Responsibilities

(i) for a Research Associate:

- Eye-tracking children taking part in the EyeTrain study, alongside clinicians
- Supporting and training clinical staff on how to eye track the children and to troubleshoot any problems as they arise
- With supervision and agreement from the PI and co-PI, managing data quality control to ensure everyone eye tracking the children are working to the same standard and identifying any problems

- With supervision and agreement from the PI and ci-PI, designing and managing preliminary data processing for the eye tracking data
- Drafting sections of study report for the funder and results papers

Administration Responsibilities

- Supporting the PI with ethics applications and drafting of other communications about the study

(ii) for a Senior Research Associate:

- Eye-tracking children taking part in the EyeTrain study, alongside clinicians
- Supporting and training clinical staff on how to eye track the children and to troubleshoot any problems as they arise
- Designing and managing data quality control to ensure everyone eye tracking the children are working to the same standard and identifying any problems
- Designing and managing preliminary data processing for the eye tracking data
- Drafting sections of study report for the funder and results papers

Administration Responsibilities

- Supporting the PI with ethics applications and drafting of other communications about the study

Teaching Responsibilities

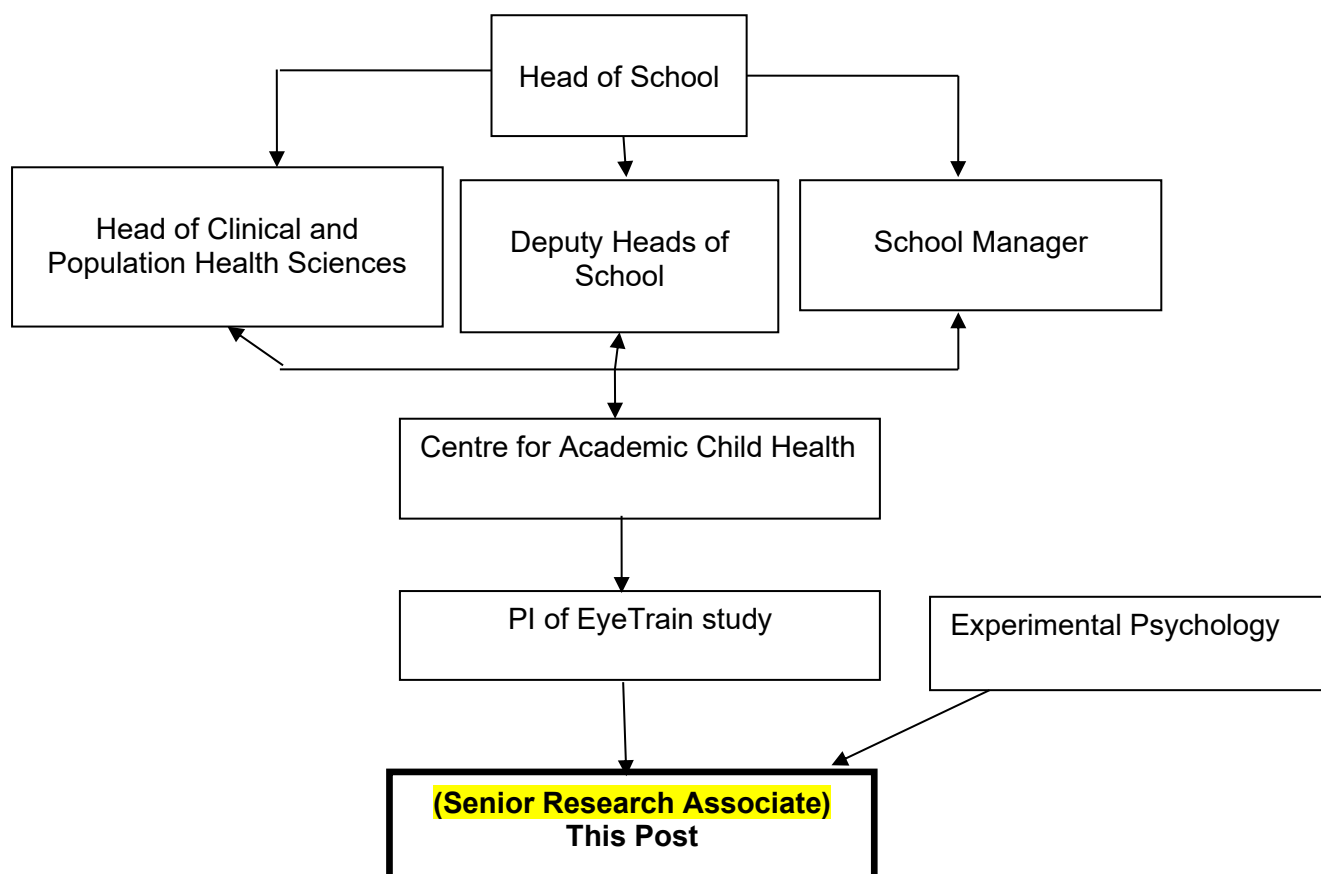
As this role is a Pathway 2 (Research) role, there are no formally specified teaching duties required of the role-holder. However, other commitments permitting, the role-holder may be given development opportunities to undertake activities such as teaching on Masters and Doctoral programmes and/ or supervising MSc dissertations within the School of Population Health Sciences as appropriate.

1.3 Relationships

Line manager: Professor Cathy Williams, Professor of Paediatric Ophthalmology

Line manager to (where appropriate):

1.4 Organisation Charts



1.5 Job Hazards/Safety Critical Duties (Pre-employment health screening)

The post holder will be subject to an **enhanced Child Workforce DBS** check as a requirement to operate within the role. This check will be completed prior to taking up the post, with re-checks required every 3 years while in the role.

2 PERSON SPECIFICATION

2.1 Relevant Experience, Skills and Knowledge

(i) For a Research Associate:

Essential

- Experience in eye-tracking children using the Eyelink Duo eye tracker
- Experience coding eye-tracking tasks using Matlab and Psychtoolbox
- Skills in analysis of eye-tracking data
- Sufficient knowledge in the areas of eye movement control and visual search

Desirable

- Experience of contributing to scientific journal papers
- Experience of disseminating research via posters or talks at national conferences and meetings

(ii) For a Senior Research Associate

Essential

- Extensive experience in eye-tracking children using the Eyelink Duo eye tracker
- Extensive experience coding eye-tracking tasks using Matlab and Psychtoolbox
- Extensive skills in analysis of eye-tracking data
- Detailed knowledge in the areas of eye movement control and visual search

Desirable

- Experience of contributing to scientific journal papers
- Experience of disseminating research via posters or talks at national conferences and meetings

2.2 Relevant Qualifications

(i) For a Research Associate:

Essential

- A PhD or near completion, or equivalent research experience in an academic, industrial or clinical setting equivalent to a PhD
- A good honours degree (or equivalent) in the area of this research project and some research experience.

Desirable

- Experience working with children

(ii) For a Senior Research Associate

Essential

- A completed and awarded PhD, or equivalent research experience in an academic, industrial or clinical setting equivalent to a PhD
- A good honours degree (or equivalent) in the area of this research project and some research experience.

Desirable

- Experience working with children

2.3 Communication and Interpersonal Skills

(i) For a Research Associate:

Essential

- Ability to communicate complex information clearly, both orally and through the written word
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues
- Ability to use initiative and apply creativity to solve problems that are encountered in the research context

Desirable

- Experience of presenting research data

(ii) For a Senior Research Associate:

Essential

- Ability to communicate complex information clearly, both orally and through the written word
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues
- Experience writing and delivering presentations of scientific data
- Ability to use initiative and apply creativity to solve problems that are encountered in the research context

Desirable

- First authorship on publications of research data

3 CAREER PATHWAY AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 Career Pathways

All members of academic staff have a clear career pathway involving a series of levels with distinct role profiles, each with its unique requirements. Each profile sets out what is expected of an academic at the particular level. The role profiles also set out a collection of competencies expected for each level. Promotion to the next level may occur after these competencies have been attained in conjunction with the expectations outlined in the Promotions Process and Academic Promotions Framework (APF) applicable to the role.

The academic pathways are as follows:

Career Pathway One - academic roles that combine teaching, research and administrative duties.

Career Pathway Two - academic roles focusing on research and associated administrative duties.

Career Pathway Three – academic roles focusing on teaching and associated administrative pathways

This post is located on Pathway Two. Role Summaries setting out what is expected of an academic at each particular profile level on pathway two can be found below. Please note that an appointment may be made at any level of the pathway.

A schematic diagram of the career pathways can be found at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/hr/grading/academic/>.

The University has two procedures for promotions depending on the level of promotion being applied for as follows:

Promotion up to Senior Lecturer / Senior Research Fellow
Promotion to Associate Professor or Professor

The procedure for Promotion up to Senior Lecturer / Senior Research Fellow describes the process for anyone on the academic career pathways and is based on the concept of readiness as determined with managers using the Academic Promotions Framework (APF). Eligibility for making a case for promotion is subject to:

1. Having a contractual expectation and meeting the performance requirements described in the Promotion up to Senior Lecturer / Senior Research Fellow process
2. Completion of a full year of service following appointment and successful completion of their Initial Service Review (ISR)
3. Meeting the expectations set out in the CREATE policy for those with teaching responsibilities (pathway 1 and 3), e.g. those seeking promotion to Senior Lecturer should achieve and have been formally notified of their Fellowship (ratified outcome) through the University's CREATE scheme before applying

The procedure for Promotion to Professor covers staff for promotion to profile level d2 (Associate Professor) and profile level e (Professor) on all pathways in the [Academic Career Pathway](#) framework.

3.1.1 Role Summaries

Research Associate (Level a)

Role holders at this level are concerned with *assisting* an individual research leader or team to conduct a particular study (or group of studies). They will generally be involved in data generation and/or collection using standard and well-defined methods developed by others. They will be working under close supervision by, and direction from, a more senior researcher, who will be ultimately responsible for the project. This may be the entry level for some staff who are expected to train and/or develop to take on more senior researcher roles. Role holders will be provided with academic and pastoral support within the department (including counselling on realistic career

opportunities) and training will be available designed to develop their competences and to prepare them to take on more responsibilities associated with a higher grade.

Senior Research Associate (Level b)

Role holders at this level will be experienced and professional researchers (or have considerable professional experience) and will be specialists in a particular area or methodology, drawing upon knowledge gained from postgraduate research and/or working within a Level a role. They will be associated with a particular project (or projects) and will contribute ideas, and/or enhancement of techniques or methodologies. They will be expected to do some writing for dissemination outside the Department. They will still be working under supervision, but will be expected to take significant initiatives in their work and consult with the Principal Investigator over the details of the project. They may, where practical, contribute to the department's teaching, through supervision of projects, overseeing practical classes, or taking small group classes. They will be provided with academic and pastoral support within the department and training will be available designed to develop their competences (including counselling on realistic career opportunities) and prepare them to take on more responsibilities associated with a higher grade.

3.2 Additional Statistical Information

N/A

3.3 Relevant Physical and Environmental Information

N/A

3.4 Key Contacts

Contact Type

Purpose of Contact