



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Research Officer in Sensorimotor Development (Handwriting)**

**Faculty of Medicine and Health**



**Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 - £38,883 p.a. pro rata) Due to funding limitations it will not be possible to appoint above spine point 33 (£33,550)**

**Reference: MHPSY1046**

**Closing date: 7 August 2018**

**60% FTE, Fixed term 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

# **Research Officer in Sensorimotor Development (Handwriting)**

## **School of Psychology**

### **Helping Handwriting Shine Project**

**Do you want to apply your knowledge of motor development to improve academic outcomes for the next generation of young learners? Are you interested in training teachers to deliver a promising new handwriting intervention designed for the classroom? Would you like to contribute to an ambitious team seeking to transform children's access to essential support for learning?**

We are seeking highly motivated individuals to join the Helping Handwriting Shine (HHS) project at the University of Leeds, funded by the EEF and being independently evaluated by NFER. This is one of two researcher posts we are advertising.

You will be responsible for designing and delivering intervention training for an existing, previously piloted, in-school motor-skills intervention. You will then deliver this training to education professionals across the North of England and oversee the subsequent intervention delivery, maintaining school-staff peer networks and offering targeted support. Data from this study will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention in improving handwriting ability and writing composition in Y2 and Y5 students. Through interviews and lesson observations, you will also contribute to reviewing implementation of the intervention, making future recommendations to improve impact.

## **What does the role entail?**

As a Research Officer, your main duties will include:

- Planning and organising a programme of work to ensure that goals of the HSS project are met according to a timetable agreed by the project team;
- Responsibility for scheduling and delivering intervention training days to education professionals in Leeds, Bradford, and wider NE region;
- Contributing to development of training materials, including teaching staff handbooks, student workbooks, and educational videos;





- Establishing and supporting teaching-staff peer groups to ensure consistency of intervention delivery;
- Conducting a qualitative review of intervention delivery (via interviews and lesson observations), reporting on the successes and barriers to delivery;
- Liaising with NFER, who will be responsible for recruitment, data collection, and analysis of the RCT;
- Keeping detailed progress records;
- Contributing to the supervision of undergraduate and taught masters students where appropriate;
- Presenting regular information on research progress and outcomes to the research team.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

You will report to Professor Mark Mon-Williams, Principal Investigator for the HSS project.

## What will you bring to the role?

You will have:

- A clinical background in Physiotherapy or Occupational Therapy (or related profession), holding the relevant professional qualifications;
- Clinical experience working with children with motor development deficits;
- Experience conducting research;
- A proven ability to work well as part of a team;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills;
- The ability to use your initiative as appropriate;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- The ability to work with a wide range of professionals across academia and primary education;



You may also have:

- Teaching experience in a classroom setting and/or teacher training experience;
- Experience designing and delivering educational interventions for young learners;
- Experience working on a large, externally conducted RCT;
- A publication record in applied health or education research journals.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by 23.59 (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**Prof Mark Mon-Williams, School of Psychology**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5725

Email: [m.mon-williams@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.mon-williams@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#)

Find out more about the [School of Psychology](#)

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty.



## **Working at Leeds**

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

## **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

