



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures, School of Languages, Cultures & Societies



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 - £39,609 p.a) Due to funding restrictions the starting salary will be at the minimum of the grade.

Reference: AHCLC1087

Closing date: 12 July 2019

Fixed-term for 3 Years – 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2022

Post-Doctoral Research Assistant

Faculty of Arts, Humanities & Cultures – School of Languages, Cultures & Societies.

Are you an ambitious early-career researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you possess a Ph.D. in Bilingual Language Acquisition? Do you have a keen desire to further our understanding of bilingual language experience and its impact on language development? Are you committed to Open Science? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

Project: Quantifying Bilingual Experience – optimising tools for educators, clinicians and researchers

Our project aims to bring a step-change in the measurement of bilingual language experience. It will seek to establish an optimal metric informed by an in-depth review of existing tools and a consensus among researchers, speech & language therapists and educators on what aspects of language experience to index.

We aim to deliver user-friendly, online questionnaires (and their associated back-end calculators) to return measures of current and cumulative language experience in real time. The questionnaires will be available in 13 languages, and vary in length and level of detail: the shortest version will be useful when parental consultation is challenging; the longest version will yield more fine-grained measures to enable in-depth enquiries.

Reliability and cross-language validity of the tools we develop will be assessed using new data from 300 children in 3 different countries, in collaboration with an international team of experts. Based on this assessment, we will provide evidence-based guidance to inform users' choice on the level of questionnaire detail most appropriate to their needs.

Exploiting cutting-edge statistical techniques, we will also develop an objective method to identify early those bilingual children in need of support with their school language, helping practitioners estimate when a child with English as an Additional Language can be expected to have “caught up” with their monolingual peers.



What does the role entail?

As a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, your main duties will include:

- Leading on and carrying out a Delphi consensus study among leading Bilingualism Scholars and Speech & Language Therapists;
- Collecting new data from primary school children;
- Preparing and analysing new and existing data using advanced quantitative methods;
- Contributing to the creation of the new questionnaires/calculators, and the design of the website hosting them;
- Organising workshops and coordinating activities with the other three teams (located in the UK, France and the Netherlands);
- Contributing to journal publications and presentations at international conferences;
- Maintaining a website to inform the various stake-holder groups about the project.

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.

What will you bring to the role?

As a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant you will have:

- A PhD in Bilingual Language Acquisition (or near to completion meaning the initial version of the thesis has been submitted) or another discipline relevant to the project;
- Advanced quantitative analysis skills and a desire to learn more;
- Excellent qualitative analysis skills;
- Experience of testing children;



- Demonstrated experience of conducting quantitative and qualitative research;
- Proven ability to write to the standard required for research reports and international publications;
- Excellent organisational and project management skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent inter-personal skills;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team, with an open mind-set.

You may also have:

- Very good command of R;
- Experience in carrying out surveys;
- Familiarity with GitHub.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information. 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. Cécile De Cat, Professor of Linguistics

Email: C.DeCat@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Working at Leeds



You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live in the Leeds area in our [Working at Leeds](#) information.

Candidates with disabilities

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

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post requires an enhanced criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

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](#).

