



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Research Fellow in Driver Distraction, Hazard Perception and Road Lighting,  
part of the EPSRC-funded HAROLD Project, Institute for Transport Studies**



**Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)**

**Reference: ENVTR1123**

**Fixed-term until 30 June 2022**

**We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements**

# **Research Fellow in Driver Distraction, Hazard Perception and Road Lighting as part of the EPSRC-funded Project, HAROLD: HAZards, ROad Lighting and Driving Institute for Transport Studies, Faculty of Environment**

**Do you have a background in Psychology or the Behavioural Sciences? Do you have an interest in, or direct experience with, studying the effect of distracting activities on driver behaviour and performance? Are you interested in joining the vibrant Human Factors and Safety research group at the University of Leeds?**

We are looking for a postdoctoral research fellow to join our team at Leeds, working with partners from the School of Architecture at the University of Sheffield, to study driver response to hazards for different road lighting conditions. The successful applicant will be employed for up to 24 months at the Institute for Transport Studies, Faculty of Environment, University of Leeds, United Kingdom.

We are looking for a candidate interested in studying the effect of different road lighting conditions on drivers' hazard perception ability, while engaged in a number of cognitive tasks, such as mobile phone conversations. Studies will use the University of Leeds Driving Simulator for data collection.

You should have a PhD in psychology or behavioural sciences, and a background and interest in driver behaviour and driver distraction. Interest or experience in hazard perception and/or visual perception is desired. Evidence of good analytic skills and a strong knowledge of analysing driver behaviour data is required.

Employment is expected to start around June 2020.

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

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Keeping up to date with the research area and state of the art, reading and critically analysing the latest publications related to the HAROLD project;
- Designing suitable empirical studies to address the project's main research questions;



- Analysing data from empirical studies and disseminating results both internally and externally;
- Ensuring good day-to-day progress of work, and maintaining good records;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team, including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project;
- Ensuring good day-to-day progress of work, and maintaining good records;
- Engaging in activities which improve the impact of the findings, including presentation at relevant science festivals, events involving members of the public/road authorities/relevant stakeholders.

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 Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD in a related area, such as driver behaviour, driver distraction, hazard perception;
- A good undergraduate degree, or equivalent, in Psychology or behavioural sciences;
- Familiarity with conducting human-in-the-loop simulation studies;
- Evidence of analysing and reporting driver and simulator based data;
- Familiarity with, or keen interest in academic research on human factors and driver behaviour, with a focus on driver distraction;



- Good written and spoken English skills, as evidenced by publications/reports and conference presentations;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure, with evidence of managing similar projects;
- Proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support;
- Some evidence of managing more junior staff (e.g. PhD students);
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- Comfortable with studies using human participants, with examples of relevant studies;
- Good people skills;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development, including evidence of proposal generation activities.

## 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:

**Professor Natasha Merat, Chair in Human Factors of Transport Systems**

Tel: +44 (0)113 34 36614

Email: [n.merat@its.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:n.merat@its.leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#)

Find out more about our [Institute](#)

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#)



### **A diverse workforce**

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

### **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 in 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.

