



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant, School of Languages, Cultures and Societies,
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures



Salary: Grade 6 (£26,495 – £31,604 p.a. pro rata)

Reference: AHCLC1037

Closing date: 17 September 2017

Part time, 30% of full time, fixed-term for 6 months

Research Assistant

School of Languages, Cultures and Societies

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a degree in the field of linguistics, a background in ethnographic research and experience of using ELAN, or similar open-access software tools, for video annotation and analysis? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

Project title: Signs Beyond Borders: Meaning-making across Sign and Spoken Languages.

You will work with Dr Elisabetta Adami, University Academic Fellow in Multimodality, Dr James Simpson, Senior Lecturer in Language Education, and Professor Ruth Swanwick, Professor in Deaf Education, to support, develop and collaborate on their research project Signs Beyond Borders: Meaning-making across Sign and Spoken Languages.

We will be looking at how deaf/hearing interactants use nonverbal resources and communicative strategies to co-construct situated understanding beyond cultural and linguistic barriers, to fulfil their communicative needs in specific situations of daily life, in shops/streets, in families, at school, and in interpreter-mediated events. The project will build a transdisciplinary approach by integrating multimodality, sign and spoken language interaction, and translanguaging/multilingualism. To focus on these perspectives and develop this approach in action, the project will involve a series of seminars for close scrutiny of video-recorded data of sign/spoken language interactions among deaf/hearing children and adults who do not share the same linguistic resources.

With a degree in the field of linguistics, you will have experience of ethnographic research and will know how to use ELAN (or similar open-access software tools) for video annotation and analysis. You will have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively with a wide range of people. You will also possess excellent analytical and writing skills and the ability to deal with a variety of tasks, working to set deadlines. The ability to work alone and as part of a team are essential, along with strong organisational skills.



What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant, your main duties will include:

- Working with and supporting Dr Adami, Dr Simpson and Professor Swanwick on their research agenda, research project and publications;
- Being an active researcher: supporting existing research, as well as conducting new research; planning and undertaking fieldwork/conferences and analysing data;
- Recruiting participants and collecting video-recorded data on deaf/hearing interactions; carrying out multimodal transcription, annotation and analysis;
- Under guidance, drafting project reports and preparing talks and project report contributions;
- Assisting investigators in organising seminars and workshops;
- Involving stakeholders in the project events;
- Running a workshop to postgraduate researchers on the use of ELAN (or similar);
- Being involved in presenting research findings to academic and professional audiences and communicating complex data in accessible ways;
- Assisting with developing and supporting research applications and proposals for funding in the specified research area;
- Contributing to research planning and development within the School, where appropriate;
- Balancing the competing pressures of research demands and deadlines.

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 Assistant you will have:

- A degree in the field of linguistics;
- Advanced ethnographic research skills;
- Advanced experience of using ELAN, or similar open access video annotation software tools, and the ability to train other researchers in its use;
- Proven experience of qualitative data analysis and writing;



- Experience of presenting research findings to professional and/or academic audiences;
- Experience of video-based data collection;
- Experience in public engagement and impact activities;
- Experience in writing project and grant applications;
- Advanced knowledge of issues of ethics in research and experience of ethics research applications;
- Excellent organisational skills, with a demonstrable ability to manage time effectively, to prioritise tasks and meet internal and external deadlines;
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, including ability to communicate effectively with a wider range of people;
- Good, general IT skills (able to use Microsoft Office: Word, Outlook, Excel);
- Ability to work independently, on own initiative and to use judgement in planning and carrying out activities.

You may also have:

- A PhD in one of the disciplinary areas of the project (multimodality, sign-language, and/or translanguaging/multilingualism);
- Knowledge of British and/or International sign-language;
- Experience of research with deaf communities/participants;
- Experience in multimodal analysis and related approaches;
- Experience in managing web content (through Wordpress-based platform) and social media communication.

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:

Dr Elisabetta Adami, University Academic Fellow in Multimodal Communication

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 0784

Email: e.adami@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

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.

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.

