

RESOURCING/

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Postdoctoral Research Associate



Ref Number:	HUM-021-19
Salary Scale:	Grade 7: £34,189 - £39,609 per annum (appointment will be made at point 31: £34,189 due to funding restrictions)
Contract:	For a fixed term period of 36 months and Full-time
School/Department:	School of European Culture and Languages
Location:	University of Kent, Canterbury Campus
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator of ERC-ADG-835263 grant, Prof Amalia Arvaniti
Interviews are expected to be held on:	3 September 2019
Expected start date:	1 October 2019 (or as soon as possible thereafter)

The Role

This full-time, fixed term (for 36 months) Postdoctoral Research Associate position is attached to a European Research Council (ERC) funded Advanced Grant, titled *SPRINT: "Speech Prosody in Interaction: The form and function of intonation in human communication"* (ERC-ADG-835263) to Professor Amalia Arvaniti, the Principal Investigator (PI).

You will be working alongside the PI, other Postdoctoral RA(s), and lab manager dedicated to the project. SPRINT aims to investigate the phonetics, phonology and pragmatics of intonation in a number of varieties of English and Greek, examining both production and perception. The present post focuses on production in **English**.

The successful applicant will work in the development, collection, analysis and modelling of English data, collected in the UK's South East (mainly Canterbury) and Bristol. You will be expected to manage and undertake primarily quantitative research addressing the research questions tackled by the project, to author research papers on these questions, and to disseminate project research in seminars, workshops, conferences and public engagement activities.



Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities

- To conduct excellent quantitative research on the phonetics of English intonation, by helping design, and by collecting, analysing and modelling relevant data in Bristol and Canterbury.
- To contribute to the writing of research papers addressing the project's research aims, in collaboration with the PI, other Postdoctoral RA(s), and senior staff member Dr Chris Cummins (University of Edinburgh).
- To undertake other scholarly activities to promote the project, nationally and internationally, including presenting the research at conferences and workshops, and contributing to the promotion of the project in social media and other online platforms.

Key Duties

- To undertake research in support of the project (including identifying relevant literature, assisting in the development of materials for production studies, and recruiting English-speaking participants).
- To have primary responsibility for the collection, annotation, management, and analysis of the English data.
- To prepare research findings for dissemination in the form of conference and workshop presentations, and journal articles in collaboration with the other project members.
- To contribute to public engagement planning and activities as appropriate during the period of employment, including assisting with the preparation of planned workshops.
- To assist with biannual project reporting stipulated by the ERC.

Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the project's PI, Prof Amalia Arvaniti.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the Health, Safety and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment

Internal & External Relationships

Internal: Project PI, Postdoctoral RA(s) and project Laboratory Manager, English Language and Linguistics staff, academic and administrative colleagues throughout the School of European Culture and Languages, Head of School.

External: Appropriate external organizations and individuals, including research participants, service providers in Bristol (UK), and senior staff member, Dr Chris Cummins.

Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application, or in your cover letter where applicable, which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

Qualifications / Training	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
PhD completed (or very near completion) in Linguistics, Speech and Hearing, Psychology, Cognitive Science, or a closely related field	✓		A

Experience / Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Expertise related to experimental research in phonetics and phonetic modelling	✓		A, I, T
Native or near-native knowledge of English	✓		A, I
Mathematical, statistical, and computational skills (R, and Praat scripting at a minimum)	✓		A, I
Experience of recruiting participants and collecting audio data		✓	A, I
Experience with prosodic theory and annotation		✓	A, I
Experience with conversation analysis		✓	A, I
Experience of writing journal papers and presenting research at national and international venues		✓	A, I

Skills / Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Meticulous approach to record keeping, data collection, and data entry	✓		A, I
Excellent communication skills (spoken; written)	✓		A, I
The ability to contribute to collaborative decision-making with colleagues on academic content in areas of research	✓		A, I

The ability to continually update knowledge and understanding in theories and methods that inform research activity	✓		I
The ability to use creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes	✓		I
Skill in working both independently and collaboratively in a fast-paced environment with set deadlines	✓		I

Additional Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Multitasking skills, i.e., independently prioritising assignments to complete work in a timely fashion and demonstrating flexibility in responding to changing needs and resolving issues (with guidance from the PI if required)	✓		I
Willingness to learn new skills essential for the project (should relevant experience be minimal); this includes skills in data collection, prosodic annotation, and conversation analysis (training will be provided)	✓		I
Willingness and ability to integrate methods, concepts and issues across disciplines and theoretical frameworks to ensure the success of the project	✓		A, I
Willingness to travel to Bristol for data collection that may take 4-6 weeks (travel, accommodation, sustenance and other expenses will be covered by the grant)	✓		A, I

***Criterion to be assessed via:**

- A** = application form or CV/cover letter
I = interview questions
T = test or presentation at interview