ESRC Studentship in Department of Experimental Psychology University College London

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 31 March 2019

We are pleased to advertise an ESRC studentship for the academic year commencing September 2019 on the topic "**Using Online Word Games to Study Language Comprehension Skills across the Lifespan**".

The successful applicant will conduct research into how online games can be used to obtain information about individual's language comprehension abilities.

The student will spend one year embedded with Cauldron Science. Cauldron Science (http://cauldron.sc) is a private sector company (based in Cambridge, UK) that creates bespoke software (websites, apps and games) for experimental behavioural scientists. The student will have the opportunity to work on a variety of behavioral science projects during their time at Cauldron using their Gorilla Experiment Builder (www.gorilla.sc) and other core tech. The remaining time will be spent based in Dr Rodd's lab in the Department of Experimental Psychology at UCL developing word games to test specific hypotheses about language comprehension. The student will gain diverse skills that are well suited to future careers either in academic research, in educational, clinical or behavioural games development, or behavioural science consultancy more generally.

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr Rodd (j.rodd@ucl.ac.uk; jennirodd.com' @jennirodd)

Applicants should send a CV, cover letter and the names and email addresses of two referees to **j.rodd@ucl.ac.uk by 31st March 2019**.
Please include "Rodd Studentship" in the subject line of this email.

Interviews will likely take place on April 4th or 8th.

The cover letter should highlight the qualities that make you suitable for the studentship and include a brief statement outlining why you wish to conduct research in this area. The CV must include marks from relevant undergraduate modules (e.g., cognitive psychology, psycholinguistics, statistics, and research project/dissertation).
Please ensure you make clear how you meet the essential/desired requirements detailed below.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview (in person or via skype) during April.

The studentship is available for either 3 or 4 years, depending on whether the applicant has already obtained a relevant masters level qualification.

ESRC studentships provide up to four years full-time funding for postgraduate training. They cover tuition fees and (subject to residency requirements) include a maintenance grant. All applications are subject to the ESRC nationality and residency restrictions. Applicants are asked to indicate in their submission that they meet these requirements. These requirements and other information are available on the ESRC's website:
https://esrc.ukri.org/skills-and-careers/doctoral-training/prospective-students/am-i-eligible-for-an-esrc-studentship/

Applicants are strongly advised to consult this guidance before applying.

Essential Requirements

1) BSc or MSc (or equivalent) in psychology or closely related field
2) A strong interest in understanding the cognitive mechanisms involved in language comprehension
3) Existing programming skills in any language (e.g. matlab / R / JavaScript / Python) and a strong desire to further develop these skills.
4) Experience setting up psychological experiments
5) Experience conducting statistical analyses
6) An interest in playing computer games or board games
7) A desire to produce high quality language games that are both fun to play and address theoretically motivated research questions
8) A willingness to work collaboratively as part of a team

Desirable Requirements

1) Experience using Javascript
2) Experience using R for data analysis