Research Associate

Department:	Education
Hours of work:	Full time / 37 a week
Contract type:	Fixed / 24 months
Salary:	£32,817 – £40,322 a year / Grade 6

Introduction

We are looking to appoint a Research Associate to join a 2-year project funded by the Nuffield Foundation into the role of family background inequalities for children's cognitive development. The project is led by Professor Sophie von Stumm, Director of the Hungry Mind Lab (www.hungrymindlab.com) at the Department of Education, and supported by a full-time project coordinator.

Main purpose of the role

The project will produce insights into the interplay between environmental factors, such as neighbourhood characteristics, family background, and childcare quality, and genetic influences and its role in children's cognitive development. A key goal of the project is to better understand why some children develop poorer cognitive skills than others and to identify possible ways for helping them to better their developmental outcomes.

You will have a PhD (or near completion) in psychology or education or a related discipline with strong skills in quantitative data analysis. It is expected that you are familiar with current research in child cognitive development and that you have an understanding of the principle mechanisms family background inequality. You will be expected to develop expertise in behavioural genetics and genomics during the role; prior experiences in these areas is desirable but not required.

Your primary activity will be research. You will be expected to work as part of a team of researchers, to liaise with external groups, and to independently manage multiple tasks within the project. You will collaboratively and independently conduct statistical analyses, prepare research articles for publication, and design and deliver presentations at conference and to professional groups.

The new Research Fellow will be a member of the Psychology in Education Research Centre (PERC) https://www.york.ac.uk/education/research/perc/

For informal enquiries about this role, please email Prof Sophie von Stumm: sophie.vonstumm@york.ac.uk.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects, with the following duties: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate statistical approaches; preparing publications; disseminating research through presentations, public engagement and outreach activities;

- To undertake statistical and data training as and if required for this role.

- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including conference/ workshop organisation, and the development of promotional or educational materials including website/online resource maintenance and development

- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, with duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings

- To provide guidance to other staff and students, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams

- To contribute to the preparation of research proposals and applications to external bodies

Person specification

	Essential / Desirable
Qualifications	
First degree in [psychology, education or related area]	Essential
PhD in [psychology, education, or related area] or equivalent experience	Essential
Knowledge	
Experience with quantitative statistical analysis	Essential
Familiar with current research on cognitive development/ family background inequality	Essential
Knowledge of statistical analysis software packages	Essential
Knowledge of other statistical software packages (e.g. MPLUS, STATA)	Desirable
Knowledge and previous experience of data linkage	Desirable
Experience with behavioural genetics or genomic methods	Desirable
Skills, abilities and competencies	
Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media	Essential
Ability to handle data safely and to secure adequate data analysis and interpretation	Essential
Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination activities	Essential
Ability to develop research objectives , projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required	Essential
Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects	Essential
Ability to develop, set up, and maintain open access online resources (e.g. Open Science Framework)	Desirable
Competency to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events	Essential
Experience	
Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research	Essential
Experience of writing up research work for publication	Essential
Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative	Essential

Experience with secondary data analysis	Desirable
Experience with genomic and twin modelling	Desirable
Experience with power and simulation studies	Desirable
Personal attributes	
Attention to detail and commitment to high quality	Essential
Collaborative ethos	Essential
Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)	Essential
Positive attitude to colleagues and students	Essential
Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions	Essential
Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes	Essential
Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills	Essential