



THE ANNA FREUD CENTRE

EXPERIENCED RESEARCHER - THE ANNA FREUD CENTRE EARLY DEVELOPMENT EEG LAB

JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

Title:	Post Doctoral Research Fellow - The Anna Freud Centre (The AFC) Early Development EEG Lab
Hours of work:	35 hours per week.
Employer:	The Anna Freud Centre
Term of contract:	Fixed term contract for 24 months
Location:	The Anna Freud Centre, 21 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SD, with travel for conferences and possibly placement/s in the other eight DISCOS EU collaborator sites
Responsible to:	Director of The Anna Freud Centre Infant Laboratory
Liases with:	Other members of AFC and DISCOS research teams

The Anna Freud Centre

The Anna Freud Centre (AFC) has one clear goal: the emotional well-being of children with two distinctive ways of achieving it: through Practice and Learning. As a Centre of Practice the AFC is dedicated to developing innovative and excellent treatments and services for children and families. Its services are offered at the Centre and in a range of settings including schools, nurseries, homeless hostels, health centres, Children's Centres, Sure Start projects and prison mother-baby units. The Centre provides specialist help for children and young people in emotional distress, helping to put them back on track for a brighter future. As a Centre of Learning the AFC pioneers training and research dedicated to improving understanding of children and young people's emotional problems through training allied and mental health professionals, conducting empirical research and advising practitioners, universities and policy makers. The Centre is affiliated to University College London (UCL), with which it offers two masters degree programmes (one of which is also offered with Yale University), a clinical doctorate and undertakes collaborative research studies.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Overview of the post

The AFC Early Development EEG Lab is a state of the art infant and child neuroscience facility, fully equipped with high-density EGI EEG/ERP acquisition and analysis systems and psychophysiological recording equipment, including EMG for startle studies, heart rate, and galvanic skin response. The lab also has excellent facilities for observational and experimental (looking time, habituation) studies and has access to a large research panel of babies and young children. As a multidisciplinary research, training and intervention centre The AFC has close working ties with University College London and the Child Study Centre at Yale University. It is also actively engaged in collaborations with the Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development at Birkbeck, University of London. The lab's mission is to advance the neuroscience of early development particularly in the arena of social and emotional development and in the interface between brain development and early social relationships, both within the normal range and in

clinical populations. Ultimately, we hope the work of the lab will contribute to the better understanding and identification of early emotional and psychological disturbances and the more targeted delivery of effective treatments.

The experienced researcher will be expected to take a central position in the running and scientific direction of the EEG lab. This will include devising and supervising innovative research studies in collaboration with senior staff at the Centre and its associated institutes, analysing and interpreting the results of these studies and preparing written reports and grant applications. The successful candidate will be expected to provide some training in neuroscience methods to new junior staff in the lab.

Duties and responsibilities

The primary role of the experienced researcher will be to design and conduct studies – with support from RAs and junior researchers – on the neural correlates and mechanisms of early social or emotional development. They will have primary responsibility for the appropriate and high-quality acquisition of EEG/ERP data and will also contribute to other aspects of study design and implementation. The experienced researcher will be responsible for the supervision of other students or RAs who make direct contributions to the research work of the lab, with appropriate support from other senior staff. The experienced researcher will be expected to take the initiative in designing new studies and also to collaborate in doing so with senior Centre staff and colleagues at Yale and Birkbeck. The post is funded by a multi-centre grant from the European Union (EU), and the successful candidate will be expected to provide input into the drafting of relevant reports to the EU funding body, as well as preparing reports for scientific journals. The successful candidate would also be expected to advance the mission of the Centre and of the lab by disseminating scientific findings at significant meetings and conferences.

To be noted

This is not an exhaustive list of duties and responsibilities, and the post holder may be required to undertake other duties which fall within the grade of the job, in discussion with the Director of the Parent Infant Lab. This Job Description will be reviewed regularly in the light of changing requirements and any such changes will be discussed with the post holder.

Enhanced police clearance

The post is subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Clearance.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

1. A PhD in psychology or a related discipline
2. Experience in the use and analysis of event-related potentials in childhood or infancy
3. Experience in the design and implementation of experimental studies in emotion or cognition
4. Excellent writing skills
5. Good team-working skills

Desirable

1. Experience of supervising others
2. Experience of writing scientific papers for publication
3. Experience in the use of psychophysiological methodologies