



# **Research Coordinator**

MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit

29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Job Reference: SU44023













### **Research Coordinator**

#### Salary:

£30,505- £34,866 per annum pro rata

#### **Contract:**

Fixed Term- 3 years (at 0.6 FTE; with option to work Full-Time, see below)

### **Location:**

Cambridge

### Faculty / Department:

MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit

### **Responsible to:**

Dr. Amy Orben

### **Working Pattern:**

Part Time (o.6 FTE, Option to work full-time or o.8FTE with commensurate decrease in overall contract length)

### Purpose of the role

In this new role you will support the Digital Mental Health Group at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit and its growing portfolio of complex multi-stakeholder projects. You will lead the design and implementation of administrative and project management pathways to support a varied research portfolio that is having direct impact both nationally and internationally.

The primary aim of our research team of 12 people is to understand how digital technologies impact mental health in young people. We value our team's complementary skill sets (e.g., differing backgrounds, approaches, and areas of expertise), and actively work with other local and international research groups. A lot of our work is inherently teambased and integrates work with charities, NGOs, policymakers and other stakeholders.

In post, you will be responsible for the design and implementation of project management strategies to organise a growing funding and project portfolio in the team. You will also take responsibility for coordinating team resources and events, public communication, secretarial support, reporting to funders, event management and dealing with financial aspects of the day-to-day running of the team. You will be able to shape your ways of working, as well as the running of the team, delivering on best practice in ways you see fit.

We are flexible regarding start date and could welcome you anytime between December 2024 and February 2025. Further, we welcome applications from those wishing to work part-time or full-time.

We encourage applicants from backgrounds traditionally marginalised and/or under-represented in the field.

### Key responsibilities

- Coordinate/Manage activities of the research group, including, organising events and activities such as workshops and conferences, liaising with donors and external parties, creating databases, project management pathways and records, handling queries from both internal and external contacts as the first point of contact
- Provide research administrative support for research activity within the research group. Compile, analyse and summarise the research produced and disseminate to research team, funders and sponsors. Maintain a database of current and future research projects, administer recruitment of potential new team members.
- Assist with the preparation and submission of research governance and funding applications. Support tender and funding application development. Gather, collate and analyse programme data and produce reports for current funders and other stakeholders.
- Provide secretarial/clerical support for research group activities, including diary management, identifying suitable dates, booking meeting rooms, organising catering, inviting participants, creating agendas, taking minutes, circulating papers and agendas and following up on any action points.

### **Key responsibilities (cont.)**

- Oversee financial administration activity. Monitor resources and expenditure against budgets, process invoices and expense claims, follow financial regulations, track expenditure, ensure efficiency and effectiveness of processes and procedures, develop and review processes as required.
- Support publicity and marketing of the research programme, maintain and update research project website. Create team social media and web presence. Develop and disseminate press releases and policy briefings.
- Provide management of internal research funding scheme, communicate with applicants and award holders, assist with preparation of annual reports to funding body/bodies, deal with routine enquiries.
- Any other administrative duties as needed and requested by line management

# **Person Specification**

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Education/Qualifications/Training		
Educated to HND/HNC, Level 4/5 vocational qualifications or equivalent level of practical experience	✓	
Project management qualification		✓
Academic/Knowledge and Skills		
Demonstrate knowledge of facts, principles, processes and general concepts related to research administration/coordination	✓	
Experience of translating complex information into engaging and informative communications for a wide variety of audiences	✓	
Competent in the use of standard software packages, e.g., Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Outlook	✓	
Experience in managing budgets including monitoring expenditure		<b>√</b>
Experience in project management strategies and/or software		✓
Experience in supporting the development of bids, tenders or reports		✓
Experience in publicity and marketing		✓
Personal Skills/Behaviours/Qualities		
Ability to work as part of a team	✓	
Ability to prioritise own workload as postholder will not be continuously supervised	✓	
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	✓	
Excellent organisational and time management skills, including accuracy and attention to detail	✓	
Ability to relate to people from a diversity of cultures and across a range of professional roles	✓	
Previous Work/Research Experience		
Previous administrative experience	✓	
Previous research administrative/ coordinator experience		✓
Previous project management experience		✓
Interest in the work of the Digital Mental Health Group		✓

### **Behavioural Attributes**

This section summarises the behavioural attributes (or competencies) that we expect the role holder to be able to demonstrate, at what level and whether this is an essential or desirable requirement.

Full definitions are at: <a href="https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures/behavioural-attributes">https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures/behavioural-attributes</a>

Please review these and provide specific examples in your application of how you have demonstrated these attributes in your work, education or other experience. It will assist your application if you explain the situation, what you did and what the outcomes were.

Attribute	Level
Valuing Diversity	А
Achieving Results	С
Communication	С
Innovation and Change	С
Negotiating and Influencing	С
People Development	С
Relationship Building	С
Strategic Focus	С

### **MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit**



Established as the Applied Psychology Unit by the Medical Research Council in 1944, the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit is one of the largest and most enduring contributors to the understanding of human cognition and its disorders.

Our research investigates fundamental human cognitive processes such as attention, language, memory, and emotion. We do this using a combination of behavioural experiments, neuroimaging, and computer modelling. Behavioural experiments help us understand how these processes work at all ages and how they become disrupted in disease and disorder. Neuroimaging helps us study the brain mechanisms underlying human cognition.

Where possible, we use our discoveries to improve human health and well-being from childhood through to older age, for example by developing new treatments for clinical disorders of cognition and mental health.

The Unit provides a lively intellectual environment for scientific research, with regular lecture and seminar series and research meetings. At any one time, we have about 15 core research programmes, each run by a senior scientist. We also typically have between 15 and 20 postgraduate students, registered with the University of Cambridge.

The Unit is based at Chaucer Road in Cambridge. The original building was a large Edwardian family house which has been extended to provide modern laboratories, MEG and MRI neuroimaging facilities and a lecture theatre.

#### Our research

We investigate fundamental human cognitive processes such as attention, language, memory, and emotion. Behavioural experiments explore how they change both in childhood and older age, and how they become disrupted in disease and disorder. Computer models are built to explain these processes. Research facilities including brain scanners located on our site are used to study how these cognitive processes arise in the brain and in other biological systems. We also develop new methods that have the potential to lead to breakthroughs in cognitive science and neuroscience, both for our own programmes and the broader research communities.

Our research is organized into 13 programmes funded by the MRC, each led by a senior scientist and supported by a research team. The Unit also hosts projects supported by other funders in relevant fields.

Our research is arranged in four broad overlapping themes:

- Attention and Cognitive Control
- Emotion
- Hearing, speech and language
- Memory and perception



Matt Lambon Ralph, Unit Director

### **School of Clinical Medicine**

Doing great work in a great place to work

### **About the School**

The School of Clinical Medicine currently employs nearly 3,000 people, spanning all varieties of staff type from Academic Professors to administrative support.

In 1976 in response to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Medical Education in the late 1960's, a complete medical course was re-established in Cambridge with the opening of the School of Clinical Medicine at the new Addenbrooke's Hospital site.

On 21st November 1980, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, officially opened the Clinical School Building which presently accommodates the medical library, lecture theatres and seminar rooms.

The University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine aspires to change the practice of medicine and improve biological understanding in a wide range of clinical specialties and scientific disciplines. Collaborative research, both within biomedicine and crossing the boundaries to the mathematical, physical and social sciences, is key to our approach. The School also supports key enabling technologies and facilities in imaging, bioinformatics and biological systems. The main areas of research interest are:

- Cancer research
- Cardio-Respiratory Medicine
- Cellular mechanisms of disease
- Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care Genetics and Genetic Medicine Haematological and Transplantation Medicine
- Infection and Immunity
- Neurosciences and Mental Health
- Stems Cells and Regenerative Medicine.



Professor Patrick Maxwell, Regius Professor of Physic and Head of the School of Clinical Medicine

The School aims to provide leadership in education, discovery and healthcare. It will achieve this through; inspirational teaching and training, outstanding basic and clinical research and integration of these to improve medical practice for both individual patients and the population.

### The School will:

Through inspirational teaching and training, educate individuals who:

- will become exceptional doctors or biomedical scientists
- combine a depth of scientific understanding with outstanding clinical and communication skills demonstrate a caring, compassionate and professional approach to patients and the public and
- are equipped to become future international leaders of their profession.

Through its commitment to the pursuit of excellence, support scientists of international standing in basic and clinical research aiming to:

- understand fundamental biology and thereby the mechanisms underlying disease integrate basic and clinical research
- apply a rigorous mechanism-based approach to clinical problems and
- innovate to solve the health challenges of our society.

# **Terms of Appointment**

### Tenure and probation

The appointments will be made on a fixed-term basis for a period of 2 years as your employment relies on the availability of finite funds for a specific purpose that are not part of the University's general revenues.

Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a six month probationary period.

### Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The hours of work for the position are 21.9 hours per week, working three days per week (Mon-Fri).

Your times of work will be notified to you by your institution.

#### **Pension**

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of CPS (Contributory Pension Scheme) – a defined benefit and defined contribution pension scheme. For further information please visit: <a href="https://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/">www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/</a>.

### **Annual leave**

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 36 days inclusive of public holidays. For part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

#### **General information**

**Pre-employment checks** 

### Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Health declaration Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

#### Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

**References** - offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

### **Equality and Diversity**

We particularly encourage women and /or candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level within our University.

### Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offi ces/hr/staff/disabled/

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, the Department Administrator, who is responsible for recruitment to this position. Alternatively, you may contact the Clinical School Recruitment Team who are responsible for recruitment to this position via:

cshrstaffhub@admin.cam.ac.uk

### The University

The University of Cambridge is consistently ranked one of the best universities in the world, achieving academic excellence through its Faculties, Departments and other Institutions, together with the 31 Colleges.

The University is renowned for its record of discovery and innovation. It is one of the great institutions, with a regional, national and global reach, attracting the very best and brightest minds. Our staff and students shape the world around us for the better: we attract and partner with like-minded people.

Whether contributing to the development of new anti-cancer drugs, adding to the understanding of how black holes are formed, revolutionising the study of ancient settlements, convening academic expertise to offer solutions to the climate crisis, or analysing public attitudes towards democracy around the world, the University's research is remarkable in its breadth, quality and impact. The University also sits at the heart of Europe's largest technology cluster and has catalysed more than 1,500 high-tech companies. And yet what inspires our 24,000 students and 13,000 staff is not what has already been achieved, but what is possible in the future.

The education and experience of our students, based on a partnership between the University's academic Departments and Faculties and the 31 Colleges, is second to none. Every student is a member of one of the Colleges, each a community of students, academics and staff drawn from across the University's comprehensive range of subject areas.



The University is a self-governing community, with a system for decision-making that provides a high degree of accountability and transparency to its members. Each Department and Faculty is part of one of six academic Schools, but each of them, and each individual academic, has a great deal of autonomy. The Colleges are independent and self-governing, working in a symbiotic relationship with the University.

The University has a number of Institutions that are independent of any Faculty or Department and are not part of the academic Schools. These include the Institute of Continuing Education (which provides high-quality education to adults throughout their lives), the Fitzwilliam Museum, Kettle's Yard (an historic house and gallery that holds important collections of modern art) and the University Library. In addition to their diverse contributions to University and public life, these non-School Institutions are also important centres of teaching and research.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment provides academic publishing, examinations and learning materials worldwide, supporting the dissemination of research, academic development at school and in higher education, and international student mobility. Legally, the Press & Assessment is a department of the University. It provides very important funds to invest in the academic purposes of the University.

The University has made truly remarkable contributions to the sum of human understanding, with breakthrough ideas and discoveries that have changed the way we understand ourselves, our planet, and the universe around us. Yet the global and national contexts in which it operates are fast-changing and increasingly filled with uncertainty. In a world that is becoming - politically, economically, socially, and technologically - ever more interconnected but even less equal, the University's mission – "to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence" - has never been more relevant.



### **About Us**

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching and conducting research.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

"Through its outstanding education, research and innovation, the University of Cambridge has made – and continues to make – a lasting contribution to human knowledge and is flourishing. By working at the University of Cambridge, you will be joining a vibrant community of students, scholars and professional services staff committed to supporting and enhancing the University's mission to contribute to society."

Prof Deborah Prentice, Vice Chancellor 2023

## **Working at the University**

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 24,000 students and over 13,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

The University offers a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with their continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and continues to redevelop its historic city centre sites demonstrating a clear determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity groups, including the Women's Staff Network, Race Equality Network and LGBT+ Staff Network. More details are available here: http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/

The University has a bronze Race Equality
Charter award, with a framework for improving
the representation, progression and success of
minority ethnic staff and students within higher
education. Furthermore, the University's silver
Athena swan award recognises and celebrates
good practice in recruiting, retaining and
promoting gender equality.

# Living in Cambridge

Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances at the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the Visit Cambridge website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45-minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

### **Relocation Support**

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/Relo cationService/. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of

### **Accommodation Service**

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit:

https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/

### What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a <u>career break scheme</u> for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

### Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings.



The University offers employees a wide range of competitive benefits, known as CAMbens. CAMbens offers something for everyone across a range of categories, including:

- Financial Benefits, including shopping discounts (both local and national) and a Payroll Giving scheme;
- Relocation and Accommodation Benefits, including relocation assistance and interestfree Rental Deposit Loans;
- Travel Benefits, including Cycle to Work, discounts on train season tickets and interest-free Travel to Work loans;
- Family Friendly and Lifestyle Benefits, including support with childcare and family friendly policies;
- Health and Wellbeing Benefits, including a University Staff Counselling Service, discounts at the University Sports Centre, and other local gyms, and healthcare schemes.



## What Cambridge can offer

### Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay and emergency family care support via My Family Care.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high quality holiday Playscheme may be available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here:

https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/

The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Office of Postdoctoral Affairs supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <a href="https://www.opda.cam.ac.uk/">https://www.opda.cam.ac.uk/</a>



### Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. There are many societies in Cambridge catering for almost every taste and interest. Whether you want to take part in a sport, participate in music or drama, pursue a hobby, or join a political group, you will almost certainly find that a society exists for this purpose. The University also hosts the Cambridge Science Festival and Cambridge Festival of Ideas, as well as Open Cambridge weekend, which together attract over 50,000 visitors per year. The festivals are a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

### **Development opportunities**

We support new employees to settle in through various activities. The encouragement of career development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional **Development Department provides** development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-toface sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. Apprenticeship programmes are also available to support employees to develop their skills, experience and qualifications.

### **Clinical School Benefits**

### **Cambridge Biomedical Campus**

Being based on Cambridge Biomedical Campus gives the University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine employees an unrivalled range of on-site amenities.

#### These include:

#### **Core amenities**

- Marks & Spencer Simply Food
- Clothes & Gift shops
- The Body Shop
- Newsagent
- Barclays Bank
- Hairdressers
- Costa Coffee/Starbucks
- Various food outlets

### **Sports and Leisure**

The Frank Lee Sports and Leisure Centre on the Campus is open to everyone who works on the Campus including employees of companies. The Centre offers a comprehensive range of activities for both adults and children (during the school holidays). Facilities include a 25m heated indoor pool, tennis and squash courts, cardio gym and fitness rooms. There is also a licensed bar, restaurant and function rooms.

#### Childcare

Bright Horizons Long Road nursery is located on the Campus making it an ideal location for parents who work at the site. The nursery is purpose built and houses five home bases, each designed specifically for babies, toddlers and pre-school children, as well as a spacious and secure external area in which children can play and explore the outdoors.

### Apprenticeship opportunities

These are available for new and current members of staff to earn while they learn. The University is committed to nurturing talent and developing expertise through providing relevant vocational and professional apprenticeships across all of its departments and institutions.



### **Clinical School Wellbeing Programme**

Following the launch of the Clinical School Wellbeing Programme in April 2014 it has continued to develop and grow each year. The School holds regular wellbeing talks and events in addition to hosting two dedicated Wellbeing Weeks packed with activities for staff each year. Activities include staff massages, smoothie bikes, step challenges, arts and crafts sessions and many more.

The School also has a team of Mental Health First Aiders recruited and trained from our own pool of staff. The School is always looking for new ways to engage staff and encourage them to look after their physical and mental wellbeing.



### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The School of Clinical Medicine has a dedicated governance group overseeing equality, diversity and inclusion related activities. Regular talks are held throughout the year and all staff members are expected to undertake Equality and Diversity training.

The School has a number of networks for different staff groups encouraging communication and sharing of practices. There is also a growing network of 100+ Equality Champions who meet termly and help raise awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion within their departments. The School currently holds a silver Athena SWAN award utilising the process to critically analyse all areas of equality and diversity within the school.

