

Researcher in Forensic Linguistics

Reference: R210449

Salary: £42,149 per annum. Grade 9

Contract Type: Fixed Term until 31 December 2022

Basis: Full Time (36.5 hours per week)

Job description

Job Purpose:

The Aston Institute for Forensic Linguistics (AIFL) is looking to appoint a linguistic researcher to become part of SILC, our research centre focusing on Spoken Interaction in Legal Contexts. SILC's current main research focus is on investigative interviews in police contexts, but our remit encompasses other contexts where spoken interaction is central, such as internal or civil investigations, the courtroom, emergency calls, and first response encounters. A key tenet of our approach is to work closely with practitioners and external organisations, in order to produce genuinely useful research informed by, and grounded in, professional practice. You will become a key member of a small research team, where your main tasks will be (1) to contribute to the ongoing 'For The Record' project, and (2) to write funding bids for the continuation of SILC's work. It will also be an ideal springboard to develop your own research career in this area.

'For the Record' is a mixed-methods research project, analysing the production of official records of police interviews in the UK. It involves qualitative linguistic analysis of spoken and written discourse; questionnaires and focus groups; and psycholinguistic experiments. At this stage, our focus is on completing and synthesising the research findings, writing up results both for our police partners and for academic publication, and preparing a bid for follow-on funding to extend the project nationally.

No specific experience in forensic linguistics is necessary, although you must have excellent language analysis skills, and be willing to work collaboratively and constructively with police partners.

Special conditions
Once we have interviewed and selected a candidate, you must be prepared to complete police vetting successfully before receiving a formal offer of employment. (This is required because otherwise you would not be permitted to access the research data.)

Please note we process sensitive data involving interviews relating to a range of criminal offences, and so exposure to potentially disturbing content may be an integral part of your work. Where this is the case we provide appropriate support as part of our commitment to ethical research.

Main duties and responsibilities

Research:

- To contribute to the delivery of the 'For The Record' project;
- To collaborate with members of SILC, and the Institute more widely, in researching and preparing bids for sources of research funding;
- To develop your own research agenda in the area of spoken interaction in legal contexts, broadly defined, leading to the production of a research funding bid.

Teaching

- As part of early career researcher development the post will include a small teaching element. This might include undergraduate and post-graduate teaching in forensic linguistics and general linguistics, and may involve giving lectures or seminars or supervision of projects and dissertations.

Other Related Activities and Functions

- Contribute to the running of the research Institute as determined by the Director
- Contribute to the overall activities of the School as determined by its Executive Dean

Additional responsibilities

- Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

Person specification

	Essential	Method of assessment
Education and qualifications	A PhD in Linguistics / Forensic Linguistics / or cognate discipline.	Application form
Experience	Demonstrable ability in at least one of the following areas: • linguistic analysis of spoken data (qualitative or quantitative) • discourse analysis • experimental methods psycholinguistics	Application form and interview
Aptitude and skills	Strong organisational skills. Competence in IT skills and Internet use, including an ability to undertake word-processing, e-mail communication and web-based information retrieval. Professionalism, diplomacy, and interpersonal skills are extremely important. Ability to liaise well with colleagues and to work as part of a team.	Application form and interview
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times. Ability to attend the University as and when required for scheduled teaching, relevant meetings and student support. A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.	Interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
Experience	Writing material contributing to applications for external research money. Ability to teach linguistics and / or forensic linguistics. Statistical analysis.	Application form and interview
Publication	Peer reviewed publications in Linguistics / Forensic Linguistics / or cognate discipline.	Application Form

How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/jobs.

Applications should be submitted by 23:59 GMT on the advertised closing date.
All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted.

If you require a manual application form then please contact the Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk.



Contact information

Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Kate Haworth
Job Title: Lecturer
Email: K.HAWORTH@aston.ac.uk

Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:
Recruitment Team via jobs@aston.ac.uk or 0121 204 4500.

Additional information

Visit our website https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

Salary scales: https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index

Benefits: https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/index

Working in Birmingham: https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham

Employment of Ex-Offenders: Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

Eligibility to work in the UK:

Post-Brexit transition period / EU Settlement Scheme
The post-Brexit transition period ended on 31 December 2020. If you are an EU/EEA citizen and you were a resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, you and your family members (including non-EU citizens need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work and study in the UK beyond 30 June 2021. The deadline for applying to the EU settlement scheme is 30 June 2021. You can apply via the Government webpage https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families
Irish Nationals do not need to apply for settlement as they retain the right to work in the UK.

New immigration system for EU/EEA and Swiss Nationals who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2020

A new immigration system has been introduced for people arriving in the UK from EEA countries with effect from 1 January 2021. In addition to those who have always required a visa, EU citizens moving to the UK to work will need to get a visa in advance. You can find more information on the following website. Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the UKVI website https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas. Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English Language requirements. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful.

If you require a visa to work in the UK the most common types of visa are:
Skilled Worker Visa
https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

Global Talent Visa
If you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields you may be eligible to apply for a Global Talent Visa:

- Academia or Research
- Arts and Culture
- Digital Technology

Please click the following link for further information and to check your eligibility for this visa.
https://www.gov.uk/global-talent

Equal Opportunities: Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.

The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career.

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

Data Protection: Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"). The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at https://www2.aston.ac.uk/data-protection. Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/policies

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