UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow A

Responsible to:	Prof Erich Round

Responsible for:	Not applicable

Job Summary and Purpose:

To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator.

Main Responsibilities/Activities

To undertake a range of research activities within a specified research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of projects and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder or supervisor. This may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research.

Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio. Analysing and interpreting results of own research. Write up results and prepare papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development. The post holder may also contribute to writing bids for research grants and will contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.

Continually to update knowledge and develop skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.

To plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others. To carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.

To contribute to teaching in the Faculty by carrying out student supervision and/or demonstrating within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of departmental academic staff, as appropriate.

The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff.

Research Role Profile

Person Specification
The post holder must have:

A doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (although individuals who have almost completed a doctoral degree may be appointed). Consideration may also be given to individuals who do not hold a doctoral degree but have required skills based on a number of years' experience in specified / relevant fields

The post holder will have authority over some aspects of project work and must be capable of providing academic judgement, offering original and creative thoughts and be able to interpret and analyse results.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor. The post holder may be asked to serve on a relevant Faculty committee. There may be additional reporting and liaison responsibilities to external funding bodies or sponsors. The post holder may work on original research tasks with colleagues in other institutions.

All staff are expected to:

- Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.

- Help maintain a safe working environment by:

    - Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand

    - Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy

- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Computational Phonology & Cultural Evolution

Background Information/Relationships

We are seeking qualified applicants for a fully-funded two-year postdoctoral project on "REVOLUPHON: Rational Evolutionary Phonology". This postdoctoral project contributes to the core cultural-evolutionary and modelling components in the ERC-selected, UKRI-funded project "Rational Evolutionary Phonology", led by Erich Round in 2024–2029. The position is based at the Surrey Morphology Group at the University of Surrey, and provides the opportunity to work in the vibrant and highly collegial research environment for which SMG is renowned.

Person Specification

This section describes the sum total of knowledge, experience & competence required by the post holder that is necessary for standard acceptable performance in carrying out this role. This is in addition to the criteria contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile.

	Essential/ Desirable
A PhD in linguistics, with a focus on computational approaches to phonology.	Essential
Track record of both independent and team-based research.	Essential
Track record of research applying agent based models to questions of language learning and/or language change.	Essential
Track record of creating scientific software (scripts or packages).	Essential
Excellent written and spoken English.	Essential
Track record of published research.	Desirable
Track record of research on phonology and the lexicon (e.g. phonological stratification/exceptionality; the lexicon in learning and generalisation; statistical effects in phonology).	Desirable
Familiarity with concepts and methods in the theory of programming languages.	Desirable
Familiarity with concepts and methods in machine learning techniques.	Desirable
Familiarity with concepts and methods for probabilistic grammars.	Desirable
Familiarity with concepts and methods in computational cognitive science.	Desirable
Familiarity with concepts and methods in evolutionary theory.	Desirable
Familiarity with concepts and methods in the modelling of cultural evolution.	Desirable

Research Role Profile

Key Responsibilities

1. Conduct phonological research into optimisation as an evolutionary phenomenon and the diachronic coupling of lexicon and grammar, using theoretical and computational modelling approaches. This research will be at times independent and in close collaboration with other project researchers.
2. Contribute to the formal operationalisation of project objectives in the computational and theoretical modelling of phonological cultural evolution and cognition.
3. Contribute to the design and development of linguistically sophisticated synthetic datasets.
4. Analyse and scientifically interpret research results; present outcomes at scientific conferences; and prepare co-authored research publications.
5. Collaborate with other team members in an ambitious and multidisciplinary project, and participate in the vibrant, collegial activities of SMG.

N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.