

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow B
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Responsible to:	Head of research group, or principal investigator
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Responsible for:	Responsibility for staff within own research group
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Job Summary and Purpose

To plan and deliver research in accordance with the specified research project. To contribute to securing funding for own research projects and for projects for those staff under their direct supervision.

Main Responsibilities/Activities

To contribute to the development of the research of the Faculty, by planning and carrying out research activity within a specified area, often in collaboration with colleagues.

To take a significant role in planning, co-ordinating and implementing research programmes and, where appropriate, commercial and consultancy activities. To take lead responsibility for a small research project or identified parts of a large project. This may include planning fieldwork, data analysis and evaluation and laboratory experimentation. To make decisions about research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues, and to resolve the problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines.

To develop new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding. Assess, interpret and evaluate the outcomes of research, and develop ideas for the application of research outcomes. To take a role in the regular publication of results in appropriate journals, in giving presentations at national and/or international conferences, and in other outputs as required and/or appropriate.

To develop innovative research proposals (as a self-contained item or as part of a broader programme), identifying sources of funding, submitting funding bids, and gaining positive reviews for these. Promoting own area of research.

Continually to update knowledge and develop skills. To extend, transform and apply knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities.

To carry out management and administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, including managing and developing staff within their projects; risk assessment of project activities; organisation of project meetings and documentation; management of resources, preparation of annual reports, and management or monitoring of research budgets. To oversee and implement procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.

To undertake liaison with external organisations including equipment manufacturers, steering committees, associated academic facilities and commercial users.

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To contribute to teaching within the Faculty by carrying out student supervision, demonstrating or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise. May be required to contribute to the supervision of research students.

Person Specification

The post holder must have:

Normally a doctoral degree in a relevant discipline, together with appropriate experience of working in a similar area of work.

The post holder will need to demonstrate a high level of competence and independent standing in research by being nationally recognised within their area of discipline, publishing regularly in recognised appropriate journals and attracting research funding for their own work or for other staff within the research group.

Relationships and Contacts

The post holder may have a key responsibility to the principal investigator, with prime responsibility for reporting and liaison with external funding bodies or sponsors. As a senior member of the project team, the post holder will also supervise the activities of research and technician staff within the particular research group

Special Requirements

To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project.

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.

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Addendum

This document provides additional information relating to both specific aspects of the post/faculty and any post specific person specification criteria. The information contained within this document should always be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

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Background Information/Relationships

We are seeking qualified applicants for a one-year part-time postdoctoral role on "REVOLUPHON: Rational Evolutionary Phonology". This postdoctoral project contributes to the modelling and data 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 Job Purpose.

Qualifications and Professional Memberships	Essential/ Desirable
A PhD in linguistics, with a focus on linguistic phylogenetics.	Essential
Previous post-doctoral research experience	Essential
Track record of both independent and team-based research.	Essential
Track record of published research.	Essential
Track record of creating scientific software, including all of: scripts, packages and AI-assisted tools.	Essential
Familiarity with up-to-date AI-assisted methods for computational tool building.	Essential
Excellent written and spoken English.	Essential
Track record of research on phonology and/or morphology.	Desirable

Key Responsibilities

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This document is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but an outline record of any faculty/post specific responsibilities. This should be read in conjunction with those contained within the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

1. Analyse team workflows and develop improved computational methods. 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.