Research Role Profile	

Job Title:	Research Fellow (1A)

Responsible to:	Head of research group, or principal investigator

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.

Special Requirements

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

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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.

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow in the Surrey Morphology Group (SMG)

Background Information/Relationships

This post is in conjunction with the AHRC project "External agreement" (grant number AH/R005540/1), led by Marina Chumakina and Oliver Bond (University of Surrey). A brief description of the project is given below. Further information about the project and its impact strategy is available here:

http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=AH%2FR005540%2F1

Utterances in natural languages are not just strings of words that can be freely placed in any order. Rather, they show evidence of complex structure which is hierarchical in nature. The rules governing syntax are at the heart of explaining one of language's most intriguing and challenging properties – agreement. In the clearest instances of agreement, the form of one word (the target) is determined by a property of another word (the controller).

All major syntactic theories (Ackema & Neeleman 2013, Bond et al. 2016, Boeckx 2006, Haug & Nikitina 2016, Preminger 2013, Sag 2010, Wechsler 2011, Zeijstra 2012, among others) account for agreement in terms of established syntactic domains (such as the clause and the noun phrase), but are usually also set up to disallow alternative possibilities. In these approaches, clausal agreement is limited to the relations between a predicate and its arguments. Data that test these assumptions will have profound consequences for our understanding of the nature of structural constraints on human language and how it should be modelled.

The patterns at the focus of this research challenge important assumptions of existing theoretical approaches: first, the agreement morphology under investigation is found on parts of speech which normally do not show agreement, i.e. on adverbs, adpositions, nouns and particles. More importantly, this surprising agreement happens across established phrase boundaries, cross-cutting rather than mirroring syntactic relations in the clause. We call this 'external' agreement.

Examples of external agreement are cross-linguistically very rare. However, there is one family of languages, Nakh-Daghestanian, spoken in the Caucasus, where such agreement is ubiquitous, making it an ideal sandbox for the exploration of the linguistic limits of this phenomenon, its interaction with established syntactic structures of the clause, and the limits of human language structure in general.

The aim of the project is to provide the empirical base from which to outline possible analyses of external agreement and propose a fine-grained typology of these constructions. We will study what cases can be subsumed under the notion of external agreement and explore whether it is a homogeneous phenomenon.

Our systematic in-depth study of four Nakh-Daghestanian languages from different genetic groups, namely, Andi, Rutul, Dargwa and Khvarshi, supplemented with a survey of all languages of the family which exhibit this phenomenon will document the variety of syntactic and semantic behaviours of constructions involved in external agreement.

Research Role Profile

The project has the the following objectives: (i) investigate the phenomenon of external agreement from a theoretical perspective; (ii) collect new data from little studied and/or endangered languages; (iii) compile a database and make it fully available for public use online; and (iv) publish a book and articles on the significance of our findings for current theories of grammar.

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
PhD in a relevant topic area	E
Prior experience in language description and the elicitation and analysis of spoken language data	E
Good working knowledge of Russian, which is the language used in fieldwork	E
Sound understanding of syntactic theory and analysis	E
Ability to work independently and as part of a team	E
A collaborative attitude to research, including a willingness to comment constructively on drafts and dry runs by all members of the SMG, and to undertake joint research and publication with different combinations of colleagues	E
Familiarity with different formal models of syntax	D
Special Requirements	Essential/ Desirable
Willingness to travel to Daghestan to undertake fieldwork	E

Key Responsibilities

This document is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but an outline record of any faculty/post specific responsibilities (5 to 8 maximum). This should be read in conjunction with those contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile.

Research Role Profile

1. Conduct research (including fieldwork) within the framework of the AHRC-funded project "External agreement" (grant number AH/R005540/1)

2. Day-to-day running of the research project, reporting to the Principal Investigator and the Co-Investigator.

3. Design, in conjunction with the project investigators and consultants, an online typological database, and conduct the research required to populate it.

4. Contribute to joint papers.

5. Organise and run dissemination activities.

6. Engage in the project's impact strategy plan, which involves the production of linguistic materials for communities in Daghestan.

N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.