**UNIVERSITY OF SURREY**

| Research  Role  Profile |
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| **Job Title:** | Research Fellow A |
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| **Responsible to:** | Head of research group, or principal investigator |
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| **Responsible for:** | Not applicable |
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| **Job Summary and Purpose:** |
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| To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator. |

| **Main Responsibilities/Activities** |
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| 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 |
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| **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 |
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| 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.

| **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 Role Profile. | |
| **Job Title:** | Research Fellow in Translation/Interpreting Technologies and Natural Language Processing |

## Background Information/Relationships

This is an exciting time for the Centre for Translation Studies (CTS). Established in 1982 and having acquired an international reputation for research, teaching and scholarship in translation and interpreting, CTS has recently been awarded funding to grow its activities, specifically with the aim of progressing and combining research on human, technology-enhanced and automated approaches to translation and interpreting. This research will contribute to future-proofing translation studies and translation practice in the era of rapid advances in AI, machine learning and natural language processing. To strengthen the transition of our research towards technological innovation in the field, we are seeking to recruit a Research Fellow with a specific interest in translation technologies, natural language processing and machine learning.

## Centre for Translation Studies

As an internationally leading centre for research, scholarship and teaching in translation and interpreting, CTS offers a PhD programme and four Masters' programmes, including the longest-running MA in Translation in the UK, which is also among the first programmes to be awarded the quality assurance seal of the European Master of Translation (EMT) network, and a Master by Research (MRes) in Translation and Interpreting Studies.

Our current research focuses on the impact of the digital transformation on translation and interpreting; on translation and interpreting in the context of migration; and on emerging forms of audiovisual and multimodal translation, especially their potential to make audiovisual content accessible to the widest possible audience. We investigate, for example, how translators work with translation-memory systems and machine translation, how they collaborate through digital platforms, and how these developments challenge current workflows in the translation industry. We research how corpora, text mining and e-lexicography can be harnessed to develop interlingual and intralingual translation tools and resources (AHRC Project COLLOCAID). We study technology-supported distance interpreting, including how video links are used to connect interpreters to legal proceedings, how this affects the quality of interpreting and how it impacts on the efficiency and fairness of justice (EU Projects AVIDICUS 1-3, QUALITAS, UNDERSTANDING JUSTICE). A specific strand of this research relates to how technology is reshaping the communicative dynamics of interpreting and training (EU Projects IVY, EVIVA, SHIFT). We investigate how audiovisual content can be 'translated' into verbal descriptions for blind audiences, how this can be (semi-)automated through the use of machine learning and computer vision techniques, and how human and machine-based approaches to describing audiovisual content differ (H2020 Project MeMAD). This is complemented by other research in the centre on multimodality and on differences between human and machine translation. Some of our most recent work focuses on how interlingual respeaking, i.e. the integration of human interpreting and automatic speech recognition to produce live subtitles in different languages, and how this can be used to improve accessibility to information, culture and entertainment (Project SMART).

The common denominator of our research is thus the study of how professional translators/interpreters interact with, and adapt to, emerging technological ecosystems and how this is changing professional practice and the products of this practice. Advances in automation, machine learning, artificial intelligence and natural language processing, availability of digital text-mining and translation technologies, and the increasing need to translate multimodal and audiovisual content have changed the practice of translation and interpreting dramatically and have raised new questions for research. Based on our expertise in researching translation and interpreting as human practices that are increasingly supported, enhanced and sometimes replaced by technology, our vision is to create an interdisciplinary centre for multilingual communication by focusing on the convergence of different modalities of human and automated translation and interpreting, thereby enabling the responsible and intelligent integration of human and machine translation. We believe that this is critical at a time when increasing automation is reshaping the Language Services Industry into one of the fastest growing industries nationally and globally. The post holder is expected to make a strong contribution to achieving our vision.

CTS is part of the School of Literature and Languages and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, one of the three Faculties within the University of Surrey. The Faculty has an active research culture and a strong focus on collaborative research, supported, for example, by internal seed funding schemes and strengthened by a recently awarded ESRC

Impact Acceleration account. Based in Guildford just outside of London, the University of Surrey is an outstanding international University with a strong focus on digital innovation.

The post holder will report to the Head of School and the Director of CTS, as appropriate.

## 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 |
|---|---|
| 1. A doctoral degree in natural language processing, computational linguistics, linguistics or a closely related field | E |
| 2. Research experience in natural language processing and a strong interest in developing and applying cutting-edge NLP methods in the pursuit of answers to questions arising in translation and/or interpreting research | E |
| 3. Excellent research skills including ability to provide academic judgement and to offer original and creative thoughts, to analyse research data and to interpret findings | E |
| 4. Knowledge of programming languages such as Python, and relevant NLP libraries and machine learning frameworks; ability to use them to solve problems related to translation/interpreting | E |
| 5. Proven ability to formulate problems and to prepare research reports, and to present work both orally and in written form to different audiences | E |
| 6. An emerging track record of excellent publications, commensurate with the applicant's career stage | E |
| 7. Demonstrable ability to write research proposals and to secure external funding | D |
| 8. Experience in working effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team | D |
| 9. Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills | E |
| **Special Requirements** | Essential/ Desirable |
| Prepared to occasionally work out-of-hours | 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.

1. Undertake research relevant to current and future projects in CTS, with a specific focus on designing, creating, and applying NLP-based methods within translation/interpreting research.
2. Contribute to the development of a research group focussing on translation/interpreting technologies and natural language processing.
3. Coordinate and prepare research reports and deliverables for projects.
4. Publish original and innovative research of the highest quality.
5. Develop collaborative networks, impact and reach of work within and outside the academic community.
6. Contribute to the development of funding proposals.
7. Represent CTS at research meetings related to projects, at conferences and workshops.
8. Contribute to the day-to-day operational management of research projects as agreed with the supervisor.

**N.B. The above list is not exhaustive**.