

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT****HUMANITIES****SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT****MANCHESTER INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION****RESEARCH ASSOCIATE****VACANCY REF: HUM-017966**

Salary:	£33,309 to £35,326 (pro rata) per annum(depending on experience)
Hours:	0.8fte
Duration:	starting 1 April 2022 until 30 September 2024
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

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BACKGROUND

The UK's first Faculty of Education was launched at the University of Manchester in 1914, and we have been championing the vulnerable and addressing educational challenges ever since. Manchester Institute of Education (MIE) currently has almost 200 members of academic staff, and over 100 postgraduate research students. We offer range of successful postgraduate and undergraduate courses, delivered both face-to-face and at a distance, which recruit over 1,000 students per year. Our initial teacher education programme is rated *outstanding*, and we prepare over 500 new teachers for the classroom every year.

Our world-renowned research agenda is delivered through four distinct research groups: Critical Pedagogies, Disadvantage and Poverty, Education and Psychology, and Critical Education Policy. Underpinning our research is a shared commitment to providing communities with useful, high-value evidence that is based on the most robust of methods.

At MIE, we aim to redress staffing imbalances and to recognise the positive value of diversity. Operating in ways consistent with anti-racist and anti-sexist agenda, we actively promote equality and challenge unfair discrimination. We seek to recruit the person who is most suited to the job, and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds – men and women, people of all ages, sexual orientations, nationalities, religions and beliefs. However, we particularly encourage applications from women, disabled and ethnic minority candidates because these groups are currently underrepresented in the Higher Education sector, particularly at more senior levels.

The School of Environment, Education and Development and Development

This represents one of the most innovative academic structures of The University of Manchester. It forges an interdisciplinary partnership combining Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, the Manchester School of Architecture, the Manchester Institute of Education, and the Global Development Institute (GDI), thus uniting research into social and environmental dimensions of human activity. The School has 330 academic and research staff, approximately 70 Professional Services staff, a little over 1000 undergraduate and almost 2,800 postgraduate students from over 85 countries [of whom approximately 250 are research students].

Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty of Humanities (<http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/>) is made up of four Schools: Environment, Education and Development; Social Sciences; Arts, Language and Cultures; and the Alliance Manchester Business School. It has 35 subject areas, a total income over £230m per annum, over 19,000 students and some 1200 academic and 600 professional support staff. REF 2014 results confirmed The Faculty and the University of Manchester as a genuine international powerhouse, with exceptional performances in a wide range of disciplines (<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/ref-2014>).

The University

The University of Manchester, formed in 2004 by bringing together The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST, is Britain's first chartered university of the 21st century. The new institution is the largest single-site higher education institution in the country, offering students a greater choice of degree programmes and options, and even better facilities and support services.

Our purpose is to advance education, knowledge and wisdom for the good of society. Our vision is to be recognised globally for the excellence of our people, research, learning and innovation, and for the benefits we bring to society and the environment. You can read more here: [Our future: vision and strategic plan | The University of Manchester](#).

Manchester offers extensive provision for research. Library facilities include the John Rylands University Library and the Manchester Central Reference Library. The John Rylands library is the largest non-legal-deposit academic library in the United Kingdom, providing services and resources to students, researchers and academic staff as well as members of the public, schools and commercial companies. It holds the widest range of electronic resources of any UK Higher Education library. For further detail: [The University of Manchester Library \(The University of Manchester Library\)](#).

The University of Manchester is a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities and is placed consistently highly in both national and international surveys of university education. The university is ranked as a top 50 global institution, according to the Times Higher Education. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 include more than 1,500 universities across 93 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date. The table is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

In April 2021 Manchester was named the world's number one university in the [Times Higher Education \(THE\) Impact Rankings](#), topping the table of more than 1,200 universities from around the world on action taken towards the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN's 17 SDGs are the world's call to action on the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing humanity and the natural world.

The University of Manchester maintained its position of 27 in the prestigious [QS World University Rankings](#) in June 2021 and moved up to 35 in the [Academic Ranking of World Universities \(ARWU\)](#) in August 2021.

General university information can be found on our website: www.manchester.ac.uk.

The City and the Region

Manchester is one of the great European cities and the University's main campus is within walking distance of the city centre. The city's architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and technology and manufacturing, and hosts MediaCity UK, the country's most significant centre for creative and digital businesses. Manchester has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere and its cultural life is internationally renowned. Within a fifteen minute walk of the campus there are three outstanding professional theatre companies, the halls of the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic orchestras, the HOME arts centre and other cinemas, and Europe's fastest-growing Chinatown. Amongst developments enriching the area's cultural life have been: the opening of the Lowry Centre at Salford Quays; the Bridgewater Concert Hall; Urbis in the centre of Manchester and the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind, in Trafford; and also the refurbishment of the City Art Gallery.

Manchester is renowned internationally for sport: it is a venue for Test cricket and the home of Manchester City FC and nearby Manchester United. There is an abundance of new sports facilities; the University is a stakeholder in the Commonwealth Pool – now known as the Manchester Aquatics Centre – which offers on campus, world-class swimming facilities. Housing is varied, plentiful and, by English standards, moderately priced. Schooling ranges from good quality state schools to excellent sixth-form colleges.

Manchester is well served by a major international airport, with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America and Asia. Manchester Piccadilly railway station has been refurbished and is served by inter-city and other train services – with a direct link to Manchester Airport. The expanding network of Metrolink tram services offers an alternative

mode of public transport to access the city. Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just over a thirty minute drive from the University, in the Peak District National Park, while the Lake District and Snowdonia are also within easy reach.

Environmental Sustainability

SEED is committed to environmental sustainability and encourages all colleagues to sign up to the 10,000 Actions programme available to all staff. Along with the sustainability seminar series, this provides an introduction to sustainability issues and highlights a large variety of opportunities for sustainable actions that can be embedded within our work.

SEED academic and professional services staff have contributed to Green Impact teams since 2013. In 2019, SEED's Office Green Impact team were awarded Silver and the Geography Labs Green Impact team and the B15 Architecture Model-making workshop were both awarded Gold. More information about opportunities for staff to get involved can be found here:

<http://www.sustainability.manchester.ac.uk/get-involved/>

Equality and Diversity

We have a genuine commitment to equality of opportunity for our staff and students. One of our guiding principles and values, as set out in Manchester 2020: The University of Manchester's Strategic Plan, affirms our commitment to being: "an accessible organisation, committed to advancing equality and diversity". Championing equality and diversity in all our activities, including staff employment and advancement, also forms part of our commitment to our strategic Goal Three: social responsibility.

Amongst many awards, the University has held an Athena SWAN Bronze Award since 2008 and was one of the first UK universities to be awarded a Race Equality Charter Mark. The School of Environment, Education and Development (SEED) was awarded Athena SWAN Bronze status in 2018. We are listed in Stonewall's list of Top 100 Employers for 2016 and have been awarded the Two Ticks symbol by Jobcentre Plus.

Ensuring that our School is inclusive as possible is a fundamental part of what we do in SEED. This effort is led by the Associate Director for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) who chairs two working groups (one for staff and one for students) dedicated to continually enhancing EDI within the School.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds – people of all ages, sexual orientations, genders, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, and beliefs. However, we particularly encourage applications from staff who identify as women, colleagues with disabilities, and individuals from minority ethnic groups, because these groups are currently underrepresented in Higher Education.

[Application hints and tips | Jobs at The University of Manchester](#)

Overall purpose of the job:

The primary purpose of this position is to manage a project which will adapt and evaluate a parent-delivered early language teaching programme (Parents and Children Together; PACT <https://sites.manchester.ac.uk/pct/>) for young children (3-6 years old) with Down syndrome. The initial phase of the project involves working closely with 5 families to pilot and adapt the programme. The adapted programme (PACT-DS) will then be evaluated in a Randomised Controlled Feasibility Trial with 24 children and their parents. Families will be recruited across 2 sites: North-West: Greater Manchester/Lancashire; South: Berkshire/Greater London/Oxfordshire. The successful candidate will manage all aspects of the project under the guidance and supervision of the Principle Investigator, Dr Kelly Burgoyne (University of Manchester), and the Co-Investigators Professor Vesna Stojanovik and Dr Emma Pagnamenta (University of Reading).

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:

The post holder will be expected to:

- Support applications for ethical approval and parent recruitment activities
- Liaise regularly with parents (email/telephone/home visits) to monitor participation, collect data, and support delivery of the teaching programme
- Collect quantitative and qualitative data using standardised research procedures
- Administer language and communication assessments to young children with Down syndrome
- Conduct focus groups, workshops and interviews with parents
- Code, collate and analyse quantitative and qualitative data using appropriate software (including Excel, SPSS, NVivo, CLAN)
- Coordinate and support a team of casual research assistants
- Manage the distribution of teaching programme materials to parents
- Support training of parents to enable them to deliver the teaching programme effectively
- Maintain ethical and effective systems for storing, organising, and managing both hard and electronic data
- Conduct literature and database searches and assist with writing articles, presentations, newsletters, and updates about the project
- Plan own day to day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme
- Work closely with the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators and project research assistant (University of Reading) to complete project tasks to a high standard and within an agreed timeframe
- Any other research task as assigned by the project Investigators

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience

The post-holder will have:

- A PhD or equivalent in Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, or related discipline
- A strong undergraduate degree (minimum 2:1) in psychology, speech and language therapy, or a related discipline
- Demonstrable experience conducting language and communication research with children

- Expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods and analysis
- Proven ability to use software packages including MS Office, SPSS, and NVivo
- Evidence of excellent oral and written communication skills
- Proven organisational skills including ability to manage own time, workload and priorities with minimal supervision
- Strong team working skills, collegiate and collaborative
- Excellent problem solving and decision making skills
- Experience of ethics and governance requirements for research with human participants
- Willingness and ability to travel across the North-West of England

Desirable Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Experience working with families and children with Down syndrome
- Experience of conducting assessments, developing/delivering intervention and/or training with children with intellectual disabilities and their families
- Skilled in coding parent-child interactions for measures of language
- Knowledge and experience of intervention research
- Ability to communicate research effectively to different audiences