

Position: Research Assistant

Date Posted:

Faculty/Division: Faculty of Arts & Science

Department: Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations

Campus: St. George (Downtown Toronto)

Employment: Contract - 1 year

Hours: Part time, 250 hours

Hourly Rate: For the master's Student: \$35.11 and for the PhD student: \$42.03

About us:

The Faculty of Arts & Science is the heart of Canada's leading university and one of the most comprehensive and diverse academic divisions in the world. The strength of Arts & Science derives from our combined teaching and research excellence in the humanities, sciences and social sciences across 29 departments, seven colleges and 46 interdisciplinary centres, institutes and programs.

We can only realize our mission with the dedication and excellence of engaged staff and faculty. The diversity of opportunities and perspectives within the Faculty reflect the local and global landscape and the need for curiosity, innovative thinking and collaboration. At Arts & Science, we take pride in our legacy of innovation and discovery that has changed the way we think about the world.

The department of Near & Middle Eastern Civilizations (NMC) is concerned with the interdisciplinary study of the civilizations and cultures of the Near and Middle East from Neolithic times until the present. As a part of the University of Toronto, one of the world's leading research universities, members of the department have an extensive array of resources to inspire and meet their needs. Our programs are conceived in the broad tradition of the humanities and provide an opportunity to study non-western complex societies and civilizations, as we believe an understanding of these societies will reveal the ultimate roots and historical development of western civilization. Located in downtown Toronto, one of the most religiously diverse cities in the world, our department provides an enriched environment for research and learning.

Your opportunity

This is an exciting opportunity for a master's student and a doctoral student to work and receive intensive, hands-on psycholinguistics training on an experimental language project led by Dr. Gözde Mercan and funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant.

The project, entitled "How do L2 learners resolve ambiguity in complex sentences?" focuses on the resolution of structural ambiguities in complex Turkish sentences by native speakers and foreign/second (L2) learners. We are seeking two motivated graduate students (one master's and one doctoral student) to function as key members of the project team as research assistants. The graduate students will be actively involved at all stages of the behavioural experimentation process involving a web-based self-paced reading task, and the dissemination of research through various channels.

Students will have flexibility in scheduling their hours.

This is a USW Casual position. The position is for the SSHRC IDG project "How do L2 learners resolve ambiguity in complex sentences?" dependent on funding.

[For the Masters position] Under the general supervision of Professor Gözde Mercan, you will be involved in the experimental setup, the review of the linguistic stimuli, participant recruitment, public communication, website and social media management, workshop organization, data visualization, and the scholarly communication of the research findings. You will meet regularly with the principal investigator and the doctoral research assistant. You will receive training on the psycholinguistic experimentation process and get familiarization with core literature on the field. You will be actively engaged in hands-on research throughout the project. You will also contribute to outreach activities and academic communication of the project results.

[For the Doctoral position] Under the general supervision of Professor Gozde Mercan, you will be actively involved in every stage of the project. You will contribute to the experimental design, help oversee the study protocol and project management, be actively involved in the visualization, coding, and statistical analysis of data (through mixed effects modeling) as well as the interpretation of the findings and the scholarly communication of findings. You will have gained significant hands-on experience on experimental psycholinguistic research and will have obtained the opportunity to extend and apply your research skills in an academic study beyond your own doctoral project and possibly across disciplines. You will also have gained significant knowledge on the literature on L1 and L2 ambiguity resolution and Turkish (morpho)syntactic processing.

Your responsibilities will include:

[MASTERS]

- contributing to web-based experiment setup,
- involvement in stimulus creation and review,
- creation of materials to recruit participants,
- communicating with and recruiting participants,
- data collection,
- data coding and analysis,
- website and social media management,
- help with workshop organization,
- outreach activities,
- contributing to scholarly communication of findings,
- participating in regular meetings with the research team,
- managing project communications within the research team and potential stakeholders,
- organizing project materials, managing timetables, scheduling meetings

[DOCTORAL]

- contributing to web-based experiment design and setup,
- supervision of study protocol,

- visualization, coding, and statistical analysis of data,
- help with project management,
- website and social media management,
- help with workshop organization,
- outreach activities,
- contributing to interpretation of findings
- scholarly communication of results,
- participating in regular meetings with the research team,

Qualifications:

[MASTERS]

Required:

- Must be a student enrolled in a Master's Program at the University of Toronto.
- Studying in a field related to language studies, Turkish studies, linguistics, psychology, cognitive science, language education, or data science.
- Some knowledge of Turkish language to contribute to linguistic stimuli and to communicate with participants.
- Highly motivation and interest in psycholinguistic experimentation

Preferred:

- Experience in behavioural experiments, and data collection
- High fluency in Turkish will be an asset
- Knowledge of a programming language (preferably, R) and/or statistical analyses
- Strong communication skills

[DOCTORAL]

Required:

- Must be a student enrolled in a Doctoral Program at the University of Toronto. Studying and having a strong background in a field related to experimental

linguistics, psychology, cognitive science, data science, statistics, or computer science.

- Strong quantitative research skills
- Proficient in R programming language
- Experience in statistics (preferably with mixed effects models)

Preferred:

- Some knowledge of Turkish language is an asset
- Previous experience with language and/or reaction data
- Motivation to learn about Turkish language and linguistic research in general

Please submit your cover letter and resume to: Dr. Gözde Mercan at gozde.mercan@utoronto.ca, by January 31, 2024. ~~January 12th, 2024~~ .