



Virtual Internship Opportunities at UCL Language and Cognition Lab

Background

The UCL Language and Cognition Lab (<http://www.language-cognition-lab.org/>) is led by Professor Gabriella Vigliocco, who is a world-renowned researcher in the field of cognitive science. She is also the director of the Leverhulme Doctoral Training Programme for the Ecological Study of the Brain in the division of Psychology and Language Sciences. The lab carries out interdisciplinary research on the cognitive and neural underpinnings of language and communication. The lab at the moment brings together linguists, psychologists, computer scientists and philosophers. Due to COVID19, we are able to provide **remote** internship positions to work in our lab in the summer of 2021. As an intern, you will have a unique opportunity to participate in the ground-breaking research on language learning and processing in naturalistic environment. You will get hands-on experience with multimodal data via editing and annotating speech and video files.

What we are studying

In face-to-face communication, information is not only conveyed by speech, but also by prosody, mouth movements, speakers' eye-gaze and gesture. Yet, most of what we know about language comes from studies of speech (or text) alone. The overarching goal of the 'Ecological Language' project is to pioneer a new way to empirically study language comprehension, moving from a reductionist approach to a real-world approach in which language processing and learning is analysed in its rich face-to-face multimodal environment. It asks how these cues are distributed in the communication with children, adults and people with aphasia; how the cues are integrated and which neural systems are involved in their language processing and learning.

Currently, we are finish building and annotating the first multimodal annotated corpus that includes both UK and US English, spans across children and adults and is representative of real-world interactions.

What we offer to interns

- UCL is one of the word-leading research universities. You will gain hands-on experience from researchers in the lab on how to conduct cutting edge research and learn the state-of-the-art methods in the study of language.
- During your internship, you will get an UCL visitor account which enables you to get access to a large number of digital scientific sources from UCL, no matter where you are.
- You will be able to attend (via internet tools such as MS Teams) weekly project and lab meetings, as well as many talks in the Division of Psychology and Language Sciences. You also have opportunities to engage in discussions with experts in the field.

- You will gain experience in working on a unique corpus of real life interactions between parents and children or between adults.
- You will learn widely used speech/video editing and processing software.

Requirements

- You must be enrolled in a university Bachelor programme or above, majoring or interested in fields such as linguistics, psychology, communication or computer science.
- You need to have an excellent English proficiency (IELTS 7 or above or equivalent scores of other tests; applicants whose IELTS scored lower than 7 may apply).
- You must be interested in scientific research, and the prospect of an academic career.
- You must be able to work in a focused and conscientious manner.
- You must be able to work about 15 hours per week and for at least 1 month.
- The internship is voluntary.

Applications

Applications should be sent to Professor Vigliocco's personal assistant: Mrs Warda Sharif (w.sharif@ucl.ac.uk). You should include the following information in a single PDF file (named: 'Language and Cognition Lab 2021 Intern Application -Your name):

- Your CV (in English).
- A cover letter stating your motivation for this internship (Maximum 500 words).
- Proof of English proficiency (e.g., IELTS 7, or TOEFL equivalent, CET Band 4 above 600).

The deadline for the summer intern application is May 31, 2021. However, you are encouraged to submit your application as early as possible as we will begin interviewing candidates likely at the beginning of May and we will continue until all positions are filled.

For more details of this summer intern or future opening of intern opportunity please contact Prof Vigliocco (g.vigliocco@ucl.ac.uk) or Dr. Yan Gu (yan.gu@ucl.ac.uk)

Notification

You will receive a notification via email shortly after you have applied indicating whether we would like to invite you for interview.

The start date for the internship can be any time after a successful interview.