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**Job Description**

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| **Job title** | Research Assistant |
| **Department/School** | Department of Computer Science |
| **Job family** | Education and Research |
| **Grade** | 6 |
| **Reporting to** | Matthew Young, Research Manager CAMERA |
| **Responsible for** | No staff management responsibilities |
| **Location** | University of Bath premises  |

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| **Background and context** |
| Working within a cross disciplinary team of Computer Scientists, Health science academics and clinical experts the candidate will work across the University of Bath Centre for the Analysis of Motion, Entertainment Research and Applications (CAMERA) and the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) through the Bath Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium (SPARC) group. This project aims to determine the long-term impact of rehabilitative interventions on the natural history of Ankylosing Spondyloarthritis (AS). It has twin objectives:  To prepare over 30 years of past clinical records for analysis using modern machine learning (AI) techniques;  To conduct an initial retrospective analysis assessing the role of residential rehabilitation courses on the natural history of AS. The natural history of AS is a difficult area to study due to the heterogeneity of the disease with regard to the severity of symptoms and radiographic progression, and because of the slow speed of progression. As a result, it is difficult to determine the true benefits of rehabilitative interventions and biologic treatments. The RNHRD has records of ~1000 patients, covering 30 years, which offers an exceptional opportunity to develop our understanding of the condition. As much as possible of this data will be digitised and stored in a format allowing it to be effectively utilised. This database will enable us to better understand AS, predict biological and social outcomes, and to determine the true benefits of treatments and interventions so as to balance them against human and financial costs. The candidate will be based at the Centre for the Analysis of Motion, Entertainment Research and Applications (CAMERA) – [www.camera.ac.uk](http://www.camera.ac.uk) – a leading UK research impact centre based at the University of Bath which contributes to research across multiple disciplines. The candidate will also be required to work closely with staff at the RNHRD and will have to opportunity to work alongside a range of medical and health science professionals as well as computer scientists. The role will therefore be varied, providing many opportunities for skills growth and training. However, a core element of the role will include developing a unique database of AS patient records. The successful candidate will hold at least a bachelor’s degree in a related field (e.g. applied health/sports science). |

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| **Job purpose** |
| To provide subject-specific research assistance to the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigators (CI) and their research team for a specified grant.  |

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| **Main duties and responsibilities**  |
| **1** | Assist with research by typically (*as appropriate to discipline*): * preparing, conducting and recording the outcome of field work;
* developing questionnaires and conducting surveys
* conducting literature and database searches
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| **2** | Provide support to PI and other research staff with project management (for example, organising meetings and corresponding with partners). |
| **3** | Contribute to the production of research reports and publications. |
| **4** | Participate regularly in group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations to research team. |
| **5** | Assist with supervising undergraduate student projects.  |
| **6** | Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity. |
|  | You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance.  |

**Person Specification**

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications** |  |  |
| A first degree (BA/BSc) in a subject relevant to the research activity | √ |  |
| Master level qualification |  | √ |
| **Experience/Knowledge** |  |  |
| Relevant work experience in a related area to the project |  | √ |
| Demonstrated depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of subject matter to effectively contribute to the research programme | √ |  |
| Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of research | √ |  |
| **Skills** |  |  |
| Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet required deadlines | √ |  |
| Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes | √ |  |
| Excellent verbal, interpersonal and written communication skills | √ |  |
| Highly competent in IT packages as appropriate to discipline/area of research | √ |  |
| **Attributes** |   |  |
| Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct | √ |  |
| Innovation and developing creative solutions  | √ |  |
| Self-confidence when communicating with a wide range of stakeholders  | √ |  |
| Commitment to safe working practices | √ |  |
| Ability to work independently  | √ |  |
| Commitment to excellence in research | √ |  |
| Ability to be an effective team worker | √ |  |