



Cardiff University
School of Psychology

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| Studentship Title: | Cardiff University Studentship |
| Research Area/ Project Title: | Memory Limits During Multi-tasking |
| Location: | School of Psychology |
| Expected Start Date: | 1 October 2018 |
| Duration: | 3 years |
| Deadline for Application: | 23 February 2018 |

Description of Research Opportunity:

Working memory (WM) theories describe processes engaged when thinking, and are useful for explaining how two tasks are accomplished simultaneously. For instance, security staff must scan luggage for restricted items while also monitoring spoken alerts. The popular multi-component WM model presumes separate resources for verbal and visual-spatial short-term memories. Other models propose that a common resource stores and processes both kinds of information. Comparing the expectations of these models generates opposing predictions. According to the multi-component model, little interference is expected between tasks relying on aural-verbal versus visual-spatial codes, such as visually searching luggage while listening for new alerts. In contrast, WM models proposing a common resource predict interference no matter the domain of the information. Consistent, intermediate results have prevented a clear consensus on which of these WM models best matches reality. We shall directly compare these explanations in a series of dual-task memory studies to better restrict and improve application of WM theories to everyday problems.

Award:

The studentship will commence in October 2018 and will cover your tuition fees (at UK/EU level) as well as a maintenance grant. In 2017-18 the maintenance grant for full-time students was £14,553 per annum. As well as tuition fees and a maintenance grant, all School of Psychology students receive conference and participant money (approx. £2250 for the duration of the studentship). They also receive a computer and office space, additional funding for their research, and access to courses offered by the University's Doctoral Academy and become members of the University Doctoral Academy.

Eligibility:

Full awards (fees plus maintenance stipend) are open to UK Nationals, and EU students who can satisfy UK residency requirements. To be eligible for the full award, EU Nationals must have been in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the course for which they are seeking funding, including for the purposes of full-time education.

As only one studentship is available and a very high standard of applications is typically received, the successful applicant is likely to have a very good first degree (a First or Upper Second class BSc Honours or equivalent) and/or be distinguished by having relevant research experience.

How to apply:

You can apply online - consideration is automatic on applying for a PhD in Psychology, with an October 2018 start date (programme code RFPDPSYA).

Please use our online application service at www.cf.ac.uk/regis/general/applyonline/index.html

and specify in the funding section that you wish to be considered for School funding.

Please specify that you are applying for this particular project.

Application deadline: 23 February 2018 with interviews (either in person or by Skype) being held in March 2018 and decisions being made by the end of March or beginning of April 2018.

General Information:

The School of Psychology is one of the largest and most successful in the UK (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/psych/>). The School's excellent standard of research and teaching has been recognised in every Research Assessment Exercise. It has its own brain-imaging centre (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/psych/cubric/>), enhancing the international-leading research in behavioural neuroscience, cognitive ergonomics, forensic, social and developmental psychology.

Cardiff is the youngest capital city in Europe and the fastest growing in the UK. It plays host to many national and international sporting events at the Millennium Stadium (<http://www.millenniumstadium.com/>). Culturally, the city is thriving, with the Wales Millennium Centre (<http://www.wmc.org.uk/>) in Cardiff Bay. Cardiff is in very close proximity to the beautiful Welsh countryside (<http://www.breconbeacons.org/>), has a two hour rail link to London and a (cheap) one hour air link to Paris and Amsterdam (<http://www.cardiffairportonline.com/>)

Please address any informal enquiries to:

Name:

Dr. Candice Morey

Email:

MoreyC@cardiff.ac.uk

Phone:

**For further information please contact:
Postgraduate Research Enquires**

Email: Psych-PhD@cardiff.ac.uk

Phone: +44 (0)29 208 75381

Address: Mrs Clair Southard
School of Psychology
Cardiff University
Tower Building, Park Place
Cardiff
CF10 3AT