



Cardiff University
School of Psychology

Studentship Title:	Cardiff University Studentship
Research Area/ Project Title:	Electrophysiological studies of memory control
Location:	CUBRIC, School of Psychology
Expected Start Date:	1 st October, 2018
Duration:	3 years
Deadline for Application:	23 rd February 2018

Description of Research Opportunity:

Many of the stimuli that we encounter in everyday life have associations with the past. There are many people who we meet, places that we pass and items that we see or use that would be excellent cues for events from our personal past. For example, when I look at my watch to tell the time I could recover details of the episode when I was given it as a gift. However these memories typically do not come to mind. Given the abundance of cues that we are confronted with it is perhaps surprising that we are not constantly reminiscing. What this demonstrates is that having a cue and a relevant past experience does not guarantee the recovery of information. According to Tulving (1983) in order for an individual to remember a particular episode they need to enter a cognitive state where stimulus events are treated as episodic memory cues, known as retrieval mode. Our recent research demonstrates that the neural index of retrieval mode, which can be measured prior to the participant making a memory decision, can predict memory performance. The focus of this PhD would be to continue this research on retrieval mode and the beneficial effects it has on memory retrieval.

It would also be possible to conduct experiments concerning the other side of the coin - the ability to disengage retrieval mode and the consequences of involuntary retrieval if a participant failed to do so. This is another important question to address because it would be confusing and inefficient if people continued to treat stimuli as cues for episodic retrieval, when this was not required for the task. The outcome of this PhD would be fundamental insights into the delicate balance that has to be struck by the memory system, between remembering information which is required for the task at hand and stopping remembering so that we are not inundated with unwanted or task-inappropriate memories.

The work that has been conducted in this area has tended to use neuroimaging techniques, due to the difficulty in studying cognitive states using behavioural measures alone. To examine these research questions EEG will be the main method used. However there will be scope to use other neuroimaging technologies that are available at CUBRIC, such as fMRI,

MEG and brain stimulation. More information about CUBRIC can be found here:
<http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/cubric/>

Award:

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

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:

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