Job offer for a Research Assistant in Spanish Sign Language Linguistics

The BCBL, a neuroscience research center located in San Sebastián, Spain, in conjunction with LSC Lab, part of the GLiF (Formal Linguistics Group) research group at the Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), announces a position for a research assistant to join the team working on research into Spanish Sign Language (LSE) and deaf people. The position will be based at the BCBL’s facilities in San Sebastián.

The position is associated with two projects: Towards the development of evidence-based assessment tools for Spanish Sign Language within the state program to promote excellence in scientific and technical research; and SIGN-HUB: preserving, researching and fostering the linguistic, historical and cultural heritage of European Deaf signing communities with an integral resource within the Horizon 2020 program. The first project focuses on the creation of resources to describe LSE and investigate how it is processed, and is financed by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (project PSI2016-76435-P). SIGN-HUB is a research project across five European countries, Israel and Turkey, and focuses on the grammar, assessment and history of sign languages. The project is financed by the European Commission Research Executive Agency (project 693349 - SIGN-HUB - H2020 -REFLECTIVE-2014-2015/H2020- REFLECTIVE-SOCIETY-2015).

The main duties of the research assistant will be to:

- Participate in the expansion of an existing LSE database.
- Develop a detailed description of LSE.
- Collect life narratives from aged LSE signers with the aim of documenting the history of this sector of the deaf community and the linguistic forms of older signing generations.
- Collaborate in the creation and administration of assessment tools in LSE.

The tasks to be carried out will include:

- Collecting data by means of on-line questionnaires and recordings at various locations.
- Organizing and analyzing these data, and creating experimental material in LSE.
- Participating in the ongoing activities of the research team.

The BCBL offers a rich environment for professional development in the field of cognitive neuroscience research into language, including a Master’s Program, Doctorate candidates and exceptional training opportunities.
The successful candidate should:

- Be a competent LSE user.
- Hold a university qualification.
- Have a capacity for teamwork.
- Have excellent communication skills, including a good command of written Spanish.
- Have basic computer skills.
- Be able to travel around Spain.

The following attributes will also be favorably considered:

- Being a native Deaf LSE user.
- Experience as an LSE teacher.
- Experience in linguistic research.
- Experience working with deaf informants and corpus data.
- A postgraduate university qualification.
- Knowledge of English.

The selection criteria will be:

- Competence in LSE (Spanish Sign Language).
- University qualifications.
- Experience in teamwork.
- Communication skills, including written Spanish and English.
- Computer literacy.
- Experience as a LSE teacher.
- Experience in linguistic research.
- Experience working with deaf informants and corpus data.

The successful candidate will be hired full-time for a period of 12 months. The start date for the contract is 1st July 2017.

The gross salary is 24,000€ approx. 50% of the contract will be with the BCBL and the remaining 50% will be with the UPF.

Applications should include the following information in a single pdf file:

- Letter of motivation (maximum 1 page) explaining the candidate’s interest in the position
- Curriculum vitae

Applications should be sent to LSE-puesto@bcbl.eu. The deadline for applications is 5th June 2017. Only complete applications will be considered.
The shortlisted candidates will be interviewed (in person or by videoconference) between 7th and 14th June 2017.

Candidates will be informed of the result of their application before 16th June 2017.

For enquiries, please contact Brendan Costello (LSE-puesto@bcbl.eu).

Further information:

The Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language is an international interdisciplinary research center in Donostia-San Sebastián, Spain.

For more information about the BCBL and the research activity carried out there, visit the center’s web page:

http://www.bcbl.eu/research/

The Pompeu Fabra University (http://www.upf.edu) is a small research-focused university located in the center of Barcelona with a highly international teaching and student community.

For more information about LSC Lab and GLiF, and postgraduate programs offered at the UPF, visit the groups’ web pages:

LSC Lab: http://parles.upf.edu/llocs/lsc-lab/

GLiF: http://www.upf.edu/glif/