



## Cardiff University School of Psychology

<b>Studentship Title:</b>	School of Psychology
<b>Research Area/ Project Title:</b>	<b>PhD studentship in understanding visual vertigo</b>
<b>Location:</b>	School of Psychology, Cardiff University
<b>Expected Start Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2016
<b>Duration:</b>	3 Years
<b>Deadline for Applications:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2016

We are currently accepting applications to be considered for School of Psychology funding.

### **Description of Research Opportunity:**

We seek an excellent and motivated PhD student join a cross-disciplinary team trying to help sufferers of visual vertigo. The PhD will be supervised by Prof Petroc Sumner, Prof Simon Rushton and Dr Georgina Powell in collaboration with colleagues in University Hospital Wales. Sufferers of visual vertigo (sometimes called visual dependency) experience debilitating episodes of dizziness triggered by certain visual stimuli or environments, such as supermarket aisles, motorways while driving, or patterned carpets. This raises important scientific questions about how cues are integrated between vision and balance, as well as a clinical need for improved rehabilitation tools. Currently, rehabilitation is generally slow and often incomplete. Our aim is to understand why certain stimuli can trigger dizziness and what processing deficits might underlie visual vertigo, and then generate improved rehabilitation tools.

### **Award:**

The studentships will commence in October 2016, and will cover your tuition fees (at UK/EU level) as well as a maintenance grant. In 2015-16 the maintenance grant for full-time students was £14,057 per annum. As well as tuition fees and a maintenance grant, you will receive a participant allowance of £300 per annum, and conference funding (£100 in Year 1, £600 in Years 2 and 3). You will also

receive a computer and office space. You will become a member of, and have access to courses offered by the University's Graduate College.

**Eligibility:**

Full awards (fees plus maintenance stipend) are open to UK Nationals, and EU students. International students will typically be eligible for a UK/EU equivalent award only.

School studentship funding is highly competitive. In view of the limited number of awards and the very high standard of applications received, successful applicants are likely to have a very good first degree (a First or Upper Second class BSc Honours or equivalent).

**Requirements**

To be competitive, you will have, or expect to gain, a first class/good upper second degree, or a distinction/merit at masters level, in a relevant subject, with a good knowledge of human sensory systems combined with numerical skills (e.g. psychology, audiology, biology, engineering, computer science). You will need to prove your ability to carry out research (you will need to present some research you are doing or have done in the interview, e.g. in an undergraduate, masters or summer project). You will be able to learn fast, work in a team and with patients, understand complex problems and apply practical solutions. You will need to have good numerical and communication skills. The project will require programming skills. Experience with programming (e.g. matlab, python) is desirable, but not essential, so long as you have enthusiasm and aptitude to learn.

**About Us**

The Perception and Action Group is a dynamic team of researchers within the School of Psychology at Cardiff, which is one of the largest in the UK and came 2nd in the country in the 2015 Research Excellence Framework. We have state-of-the art testing facilities and a thriving postgraduate research community, regular seminars and training opportunities, and close collaborations with Clinicians in the Univeristy Hospital Wales. This year, we will open a new brain imaging centre that will be one of the largest and most technologically advanced in the Europe (<http://sites.cardiff.ac.uk/cubric/>). The school was ranked 40th in the 2014 QS World University Rankings. The School has an Athena SWAN Bronze Award that recognises good employment practice and a commitment to develop the careers of women working in science.

Cardiff is a thriving city in very close proximity to the beautiful coast and countryside (<http://www.breconbeacons.org/>). It has a two-hour rail link to London and easy access to airports at Cardiff and Bristol. Please consult the School's web pages for more information <http://psych.cf.ac.uk/>.

For more information about the supervisors and research group, see:

<http://psych.cf.ac.uk/contactsandpeople/academics/index.html>

and the 'Perception and Action' tab in

[http://psych.cf.ac.uk/research/cognitive\\_science/index.php](http://psych.cf.ac.uk/research/cognitive_science/index.php)

For informal enquiries about the project, contact Georgie Powell, Petroc Sumner or Simon Rushton ([powellg7@cf.ac.uk](mailto:powellg7@cf.ac.uk); [sumnerp@cf.ac.uk](mailto:sumnerp@cf.ac.uk); [rushtonsk@cf.ac.uk](mailto:rushtonsk@cf.ac.uk)). Please attach a brief (one page) CV.

**How to apply:**

No separate application is necessary – consideration is automatic on applying for a PhD in Psychology, with an Oct 2016 start date (programme code RFPDPSYA). Please use our online application service at

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/regis/general/applyonline/psychpgr.html>

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

**Application deadline:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 with decisions being made at the end of April 2016.