

The Clinic for Cognitive Neurology, **University Clinic Leipzig**, Germany is offering a

## **PhD position for 3 years**

**in a research project on Early Language Acquisition using combined fNIRS-EEG.**

This project is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and focuses on children's lexicon acquisition. We postulate 1) that *perceptual anchoring* (the learning from repetitive contexts) is an essential learning mechanism at early word learning stages and 2) that this learning mechanism is less efficient in infants with a familial risk of developmental dyslexia. We will combine functional near-infrared-spectroscopy (fNIRS) and electroencephalography (EEG) to capture spatial and temporal characteristics of infants' brain responses and, longitudinally, relate these measures to children's later vocabulary skills.

Applicants must hold a master's degree (or equivalent) in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Neuroscience, Linguistics, or a related field. The successful applicant will have a profound background in psycholinguistics and solid programming (i.e., MATLAB, Presentation) skills. Proficiency in oral and written English is mandatory. Experience in the acquisition and analysis of neuroimaging data are preferable, but not essential. Most importantly, the successful applicant will share the enthusiasm for research questions on the neural bases of early language acquisition and enjoy the scientific work with infants (and their families) upon answering these questions.

**Preferable starting date is November 2016.** Interviews will be held in October.

The research project is mainly conducted at the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, Germany, an internationally leading center for cognitive and imaging neuroscience. PhD students will have the opportunity to attend an International Max-Planck Research School.

The University Clinic Leipzig is an equal opportunity employer. In order to increase the proportion of female staff members, applications from female scientists are particularly encouraged. Preference will be given to disabled persons with the same qualification.

Applications should be sent to **maennel@cbs.mpg.de** as a single, appropriately named pdf email attachment, using the code "PhD DFG 11/16" in the subject.

Applications should enclose the following information:

- Statement of motivation, describing personal qualifications and future research interests
- Curriculum vitae
- Contact details of two referees

This call **closes on September 30, 2016.**

*For further details, please contact* Dr. Claudia Männel (maennel@cbs.mpg.de).