Matthew Waddington

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Personal Statement

At present, I am an MRes Psychology student at The University of Manchester seeking experience to enhance my understanding and practical capabilities within the scientific field. My main ambition is to build a career within the field of neuropsychology.

Education

The University of Manchester (*September 2020 – Present*)
MRes Psychology

Modules: Advanced Statistics, Contemporary Research Skills, Qualitative Research Methods, Dissertation (Vascular Dementia Project)

The University of Manchester (*September 2017 – July 2020*)
BSc Psychology (1:1; 76.4%; ranked 2nd in year group)

Notable modules: Dissertation (80%), Statistics & Data Analysis (88%), Clinical Psychology (90%), Understanding Dementia (80%), Clinical Cases in Neuropsychology (70%), Cognitive Neuroscience (73%)

Acquired Skills:
- Broadened understanding of psychological theory from social psychology to cognitive neuroscience
- Developed statistical analysis and data collection skills
- Advanced research writing skills for qualitative and quantitative methods
- Integrated knowledge into practical applications for everyday life. For example, questioning the veracity of media statistics
- Developed efficient time management and organisational skills. As an example, in addition to my final year studies, I supported two PhD students on separate research projects

Huddersfield New College (*2015 – 2017*)
3 qualifications: Psychology (B), English Language (B), Sport & Exercise Science (Dn*)

Royds Hall High School, Huddersfield (*2010-2015*)
14 qualifications [13 A* - C or equivalent; including Maths (A) and English Language (B)]

Work Experience

Evolutionary Psychology Research Assistance, Manchester (*October 2018 – April 2020*)
- Assisted research into evolutionary explanations for dominance behaviour
- Designed and lead a project for other research assistants to shadow
- Learned to use facial morphing software (i.e., Psychomorph) to change the perceived dominance of faces
- Data collection and public interaction at Manchester Museum

Clinical Psychologist Shadowing, Salford Royal Hospital (*October 2019 – November 2019*)
- Developed an understanding of epilepsy patients' capacity and the implications for treatment/surgery

- Familiarised myself with neuropsychological testing for supporting diagnosis of patients' deficits
- Engaged with clinical psychologist to formulate interventions for epilepsy patients

Evolutionary Psychology Summer Internship, Manchester (*June 2019 – August 2019*)
- Successfully collaborated with a PhD student on a research project which is published in the *Human Evolution and Behaviour* journal
- Managed several projects requiring different demands simultaneously. For instance, a workday may have been split into reviewing academic literature, collecting project data, as well as analysing data
- Developed some proficiency in R programming language
- Learned advanced statistical analyses (including Bayesian analysis and principle components analysis)
- Public engagement at Manchester Museum for data collection
- Wrote a comprehensive literature review on the reliability and validity of a construct within evolutionary psychology

Cognitive Psychology Research Assistance, Manchester (*January 2019 – May 2019*)
- Supported PhD research relating to lexical processing and memory
- Scheduled experiments to conduct research
- Applied quantitative research methods knowledge to data collection
- Increased familiarity with the ethical guidelines and procedure for research conduction

Teaching Assistant at Woodley School, Huddersfield (*December 2016 – March 2017*)
- Volunteered within a specialist school for children with autism
- Guided the students' academic and behavioural progress
- Communicated effectively with those who have learning difficulties
- Strategised techniques to optimise learning for the students
- Gained valuable insight into the students' theory of mind

Additional Skills & Interests

Recognition and Skills:
- R Programming
- Statistical software (SPSS)
- Proficient with IT (e.g., Microsoft Office, programming, website creation)
- Co-author of a publication in the *Evolution and Human Behaviour* journal
- Completed online courses for R Programming and Machine Learning on Udemy
- First Aid Emergency Response award (qualified)

Interests:
- Frequent learning about psychology, neuroscience, data science, health, fitness and nutrition

References

References are available on request.