

Linguistics and English Language
School of Social Sciences, Lancaster University

20th October, 2025

Dear Dr Brown and members of the search committee,

I am excited to attach my application for the position of Senior Research. Much of my specific skill set is addressed in the supporting statements part of the application but I would like to highlight my experience adapting to different work environments and research contexts, and my commitment to continuing to learn new skills, methods, and software.

In all my work I strive for excellence, seeking out opportunities to learn and develop my skills and ensure I am using the most up to date and appropriate analysis techniques for each project. I have a self-motivated approach, and a can-do attitude to problem solving and professional development, having self-taught the skills for much of my PhD and subsequent work, including transitioning those skills to uses outside of academia. I have held one full time research role since my PhD but while working on other projects (Manchester Voices) or in other roles (Lab Manager or Associate Lecturer) I have continued to learn new methods and analysis techniques. I have applied knowledge from my research to support other projects, for example using sociophonetic analysis techniques with MFA and Praat to semi-automate discourse pragmatic and grammatical variable coding on the LiLLT project with Dr Hieke Pichler. While in research support roles I have sought out training and experience in Bayesian Statistics, High Powered Computing, and Machine Learning. I have also enjoyed applying skills learned from language research to alternative data sets in a voluntary capacity, such as a congregational survey for a church trust, a marketing survey for a school start-up project, and a video platform user survey. I have recently undertaken independent Python training to broaden my skill set and have applied this in practice, collaboratively developing data cleaning and import scripts for a Django web app.

I have regularly worked in either multiple jobs or jobs that hold more than one project or commitment. I am able to balance long-term objectives with shorter term deadlines. I have planned and executed work to others' deadlines and set my own independently as required by the various projects I have worked on. I strive to create and participate in a supportive and collaborative working environment. In both my professional and volunteering experience, I have collaborated with teams to understand project goals and the appropriate ways to share those within a team. I enjoy being able to collaborate with a team to find ways to work together using systems and processes that are both appropriate and effective for the task at hand but also accessible and workable for all members of a team. I find this project an attractive and exciting opportunity to take Linguistics research skills and apply them to answer immediate questions and create real world impactful solutions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Caitlin Halfacre