

# Nick Ballou

Gaming Psychology Researcher

Phonetician

Primary English Teacher

nick.ballou@gmail.com

+852 5744 8426

nickballou.com

linkedin.com/in/nballou

## Skills

Inferential Statistics

Data Analysis in R

Experimental Design

Phonetic Analysis

Transcription

Python (basic/intermediate)

Regular Expressions

## Coursework

Psycholinguistics

Intro to Computer Science

Computational Linguistics

Language Acquisition

Experimental Phonetics

## Awards

Phi Beta Kappa

Ann Royal Arthur German  
Scholarship Award

Tulane Presidential Merit  
Scholar (\$27k/year; 4 yrs)

Delvin Internship Grant, 2015

Fulbright Research Grant  
Alternate

AIPHES Doctoral Training  
Grant (€7k, declined)

## Qualifications

Louisiana ESL Teaching  
Certification (180 hrs)

Pedagogical Child Care

## Languages

English (native)

German (C1)

Dutch (B1)

French (A2/B1)

## Hobbies

Tennis

Cruciverbalsim

A cappella singing

## Education

### University of Cambridge (St Edmund's College)

rec. July 2018

M.Phil. *with distinction*, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

Dissertation: *Utterance Playback in the Acquisition of L2 Phonetic Features: Factors Affecting Speech Learning During First Exposure*  
(Supervisor: Dr Calbert Graham)

### Tulane University

rec. May 2016

B.S. *magna cum laude*, Linguistics and Environmental  
Studies

Capstone paper: *The Building Blocks of Language: Bigram  
Frequency in Speech Patterns of Children Ages 1;9–3;1*

## Experience

### English Teacher — Baptist Rainbow Primary School

Hong Kong

August 2018 – July 2019

- Design and deliver varied English lessons for grades 2 and 6
- Utilize wide range of e-learning resources
- Developed new class entitled “Gaming for Good” on the history, development, and psychology of video games

### Phonetics Research Assistant — University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

July – August 2018

- Assisted Drs Brechtje Post and Calbert Graham with the preparation of a special issue of *Phonetica* entitled ‘Constancy and Variation’
- Conducted a comprehensive literature review spanning phonetics, phonology, and psycholinguistics
- Assisted with writing summary article for this high-impact journal

### Au Pair — Scholik Family

Vienna, Austria

July 2016 – July 2017

- Responsible for comprehensive care of two German-speaking children, ages 6 and 10
- Acted as translator and innovative English tutor, introducing techniques like mobile games for language learning

### Psycholinguistics Research Intern — Hunter College

Language Acquisition Research Center

New York, NY

June – August 2015

- Recorded, transcribed, and analyzed the spontaneous speech of 2- to 3-year old children

## Publications

Ballou, N (2018). Conceptualizing an ideal computer-assisted pronunciation training system: Educational technology for L2 phonetic features. *Cambridge Occasional Papers in Linguistics*, 11.