



The Department of Psychology at the Eberhard Karls University Tübingen invites applications for the following position within the project “**Modal and Amodal Representations Across Development**” [PIs: Donna Bryce / Claudia Friedrich] as part of the DFG Research Unit « Modal und Amodal Cognition: Functions and Interactions »

1 Doctoral-Position (m/f/d, E13 TV-L; 65%)

Employment is envisaged for 1st of December 2020 or soon thereafter and will last for 3 years.

This doctoral project is in the field of developmental cognitive psychology, with a focus on the development of executive control in middle childhood. The project is embedded within a research unit, composed of 8 research projects with 11 PhD students, which deals with the question of how the human mind represents the internal and external world. Central to this question is the distinction between modal (concrete, closely linked to sensory experiences) and amodal (abstract, symbolic) representations. The goal of the research unit is to unravel the functional roles of modal and amodal representations for cognition and to investigate their interactions in different subfields of psychology (see website: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/fakultaeten/mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche-fakultaet/fachbereiche/psychologie/forschung/research-unit/>).

This doctoral position will focus on the types of representations used in executive (or cognitive) control processes. In particular, within classical cognitive control tasks (e.g. Stroop, Flanker), it has been observed that children adjust their behaviour following the experience of conflict (i.e. an incongruent trial) or after making an error. In this project we ask how far reaching these adjustments are – do they only occur within the same task, or can they also transfer to similar but different tasks? As such, this line of research aims to establish whether cognitive control processes operate on more modal or more amodal representations, the contexts under which different representations are involved, and how these may change with age.

The successful candidate will plan and conduct studies relevant to the project, will analyse and interpret the results of the performed studies, will help in the preparation of manuscripts for publication, and will be involved in the development of follow-up studies. S/he will be intensively supported by the whole research unit in obtaining a PhD in developmental cognitive psychology, with Dr Donna Bryce as the primary supervisor.

What is required?

- Very good Master degree in Psychology or Cognitive Science
- High motivation and interest in research on cognitive development
- Very good skills in experimental procedures and statistical analyses
- Experience in working with school-aged children is desirable
- Very good English skills

What we offer

- Possibility to conduct a PhD in an innovative interdisciplinary field of research
- Integration in a research unit that offers regular journal clubs, a monthly research colloquium and biannual workshops
- A strong team of researchers who are highly interconnected both with each other and with other excellent researchers all over the globe
- Possibility to collaborate with excellent research institutes, both nationally and internationally
- Strong support for building up a career as a researcher in cognitive psychology and related fields



The University of Tübingen is an equal opportunity employer and specifically welcomes applications from female scientists. Preference will be given to applicants with disabilities when qualifications are equivalent.

Please submit your application documents (cover letter, C.V., contact details for two references, copies of degree certificates and transcript of grades) **as a single pdf-file** to donna.bryce@uni-tuebingen.de, **by 19th October 2020**. Informal enquiries are welcome to the same email address.

The employment will be carried out by the central administration of the University of Tübingen.