



Research Position(s):

UCL jobs search engine ref: 1344460

Creating online English grammar resources for primary schools

- Survey of English Usage (SEU), Department of English Language and Literature, UCL
- Research Associate
- Full Time Salary, including London Allowance: £29, 541 per annum plus £2,834 London Allowance, pro rata.
- Offered as 1 Full Time (36.5 hours per week) or 2 Part Time posts (hours negotiable)

Duties and responsibilities

The SEU seeks to fill a full-time equivalent position of Research Associate by making either a single full-time appointment or two part-time appointments.

The successful candidate(s) will work on the project *Extending the Englicious Platform for Primary English*, a follow-on project from the Knowledge Transfer Fellowship *Creating a Web-Based Platform for English Language Teaching and Learning*, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The appointee will work alongside a computer scientist and will report to the Director. The project, which has the National Association for the Teaching of English and St Aidan's Primary School in North London as partners, is described on the following website: www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/projects/grammar-teaching/primary. It will run for 6 months from 1 September 2013.

Although this is a short project, it offers teachers a rare and exciting opportunity to help influence the implementation of the new English language curriculum and to support schools in implementing it.

The *Englicious* platform, www.englicious.org (currently password protected), contains a large suite of classroom activities, from short starters to longer lesson plans, interactive exercises, project ideas and CPD resources. These resources were developed for secondary schools to support the teaching of the secondary English language curriculum, and English grammar in particular. The purpose of the new project is to extend these resources to primary education as far as possible, identifying which existing resources work in a primary context, which may work if adapted, and any new resources that may be required.

The work to be carried out on this project has the following objectives:

- To develop new English language teaching content specifically aimed at pupils at Key Stages 1 and 2 in three domains, namely grammar, spelling, and punctuation. These new resources will need to be targeted at the right level in the curriculum. The aim is to develop engaging and enjoyable materials which pupils can work on in class using an interactive whiteboard, and, where available, laptops and tablets.
- To develop resources that specifically train pupils in spoken language use, to address the importance of this area, as stressed by the Department for Education.

- To ensure that the resources tie into the newly proposed National Curriculum for English primary schools, especially the Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) test.
- To ensure pedagogical consistency across the primary and secondary curriculum. such that there is a single coherent grammar framework within the school curriculum from primary school to secondary school.

Applicants will be working at the Survey of English Usage, University College London. Any offer of employment will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Key requirements

Essential

- A detailed knowledge of English grammar.
- An interest in teaching grammar at primary school level.
- Classroom experience of English language teaching at primary and/or secondary school.
- Knowledge of Key Stages 1-5 of the UK National Curriculum in English.
- A demonstrable expertise in applying linguistics to English language teaching.
- Experience of teacher engagement.
- An ability to work according to UCL policies, including Equal Opportunities policies.
- A willingness to consult where appropriate.
- Initiative in devising effective procedures for carrying out tasks.
- Good communication skills, oral and written.
- Ability to communicate with staff and students in an academic environment and across departments.
- Good computer skills (Word, Excel, email, etc.).
- Experience of maintaining effective filing systems.
- Ability to work under minimum of supervisory control and exercise initiative in well-defined areas of work. Ability to schedule tasks accordingly.
- The postholder will carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager.

Desirable

- Educated to PhD level or equivalent in English linguistics, applied linguistics, or a related field.
- Knowledge of corpus linguistics.
- Experience of using Virtual Learning Environments, ideally Moodle.
- Experience in the evaluation of teaching methods.
- Web-based programming experience.
- Academic publications in the relevant area of research.

Further details

The Director of the Survey of English Usage is Professor Bas Aarts. He can be contacted for general information (e-mail b.aarts@ucl.ac.uk).

How to apply

This page will direct you to the UCL jobs database. The reference code is 1344460.
www.ucl.ac.uk/english-usage/projects/grammar-teaching/primary

Closing date

10 July 2013

Latest time for submission of application

5 p.m.

Interview date

16 July 2013