

Call for a postdoctoral position in the "Writing and Spelling" team at institute AMPIRIC

We are seeking a post-doctoral researcher to coordinate a project which aims at evaluating the writing and spelling skills of children from kindergarten to secondary school, as part of the "Writing and Spelling" pilot team of the AMPIRIC Institute.

The AMPIRIC institute (<https://www.univ-amu.fr/ampiric>) is based on an interdisciplinary scientific perimeter composed of 22 laboratories at Aix-Marseille Université. It aims to improve the acquisition of fundamental knowledge at school, particularly for students facing the greatest difficulties.

Context and project: Writing supports a great deal of knowledge acquisition and is a key element in most evaluations at all school levels. Proficient writing is a major parameter in school success and writing difficulties are potentially a source of inequality. Why a child faces difficulties learning to write by hand or to integrate the spelling of words is still poorly understood. Nor is it known whether learning to use a keyboard will disrupt or facilitate the concurrent acquisition of handwriting.

The "Writing and Spelling" team brings together specialists in handwriting production, keyboarding and spelling based in Marseille. Its work focuses on the acquisition of the graphic gesture, its changes with the use of digital technology, and its relationship with the acquisition of spelling.

The proposed project focuses on both handwriting and typing. The use of the latter is recommended from kindergarten onwards and its use increases sharply at the start of secondary school. The aim is to describe the performance of children according to their school level, to better identify children with difficulties in acquiring handwriting, and to determine which factors predict competence. Thus, this project will provide a precise inventory of the writing performance among students and answer various basic research questions.

Profile: Hold a PhD in Cognitive Psychology or Cognitive Neuroscience, ideally with a focus on written production or more broadly on literacy. Good organizational and communication skills are required, in order to coordinate the different professionals involved in the project: schools, engineers, researchers. The software aspects of the implementation of the evaluation platform as well as the methodology of automated analysis of the students' productions will be handled by specialized companies. A good understanding of these aspects will nevertheless be necessary, as well as the mastery of tools for the exploitation of large databases: organization, visualization, statistical modeling. Prior experience with experiments in school contexts would be an advantage. Conversational French is needed.

The person recruited will be hosted in lab of the leader of the pilot team, Prof. Marieke Longcamp.

The application is composed of the following documents:

1. Curriculum vitae and list of publications (pdf)
2. PhD diploma (pdf or jpeg)

3. Doctoral report (pdf)
4. Research project: title, host research unit, presentation of the project in 10,000 characters maximum (pdf)
5. Letter of acceptance from the director of the research unit, Ampiric's partner (pdf)
6. Letter of support from the pilot team leader (pdf)
7. Letter of recommendation from an external scientific personality (pdf)

Application deadline: January 27, 2023 midnight

Applications should be sent to mathilde.favier@univ-amu.fr and should be named as follows:

1. NAME_CV
2. NAME_Doctorate
3. NAME_Supervisor
4. NAME_Project
5. NAME_LetterDir
6. NAME_Commendation

Audition of short-listed candidates: March 6, 2023

Duration of the contract: 1 year from April 1, 2023, renewable once

Salary: 2 466,38 € gross per month (1 982,94 € net)

For further information: marieke.longcamp@univ-amu.fr