

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



Neo-PRISM-C project

NEurodevelopmental Optimal-Predictors, Risk factors, and Intervention from a Systems approach to Maladjustment in Children

Early Stage Researcher (ESR) position

The Department of Primary Education at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) is offering:

- Position for **1 Early Stage Researchers** (ESRs; doctoral students) in a project aiming to study neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD). The purpose of the specific ESR is to utilize knowledge from the neurosciences in order to develop and validate instruments on reading and spelling by use of Modern Statistical Methods and particularly the development of Computerized Adaptive Tests (CAT).
- Applicants holding a Bachelor and a Master degree in the area of Psychology or related disciplines (see below description) are encouraged to apply. The selected doctoral student will enroll at the Department of Primary Education of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and work towards a **Ph.D.** Applicants must **have good mastery of the Greek language.**

The multidisciplinary *Neo-PRISM-C* project is funded by the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie action of the European Union. It is part of the Innovative Training Network (ITN) actions (<http://www.neoprismc.org/>)

Hosting Institution

The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (<https://en.uoa.gr/>) is the largest state institution of higher learning in Greece, and among the largest universities in Europe. As all other Greek universities, it is a self-governed legal entity of public law and all major policy issues are determined by the Ministry of National Education and Religion. Retaining its academic autonomy, it fully respects the constitutionally secured right to everyone for a free education. This is possible because it is funded by the state. Moreover, it is progressively succeeding to benefit from its property and legacies, as well as from the funding of research projects with national and international partners. All funds are invested into the management

and operation of educational, research and cultural programmes, into student and staff services and grants. With a student body of about 125000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, over 2000 members of academic staff and approximately 1300 administrative and secretarial staff and specialised personnel, the University of Athens aims at excellence in both teaching and research in a significantly varied range of disciplines. The Faculties and their respective Departments, functioning within the 8 larger academic units entitled Schools, as well as a number of independent Faculties offer a wide range of undergraduate courses, leading to a Diploma equivalent to a Bachelor of Arts or Sciences degree (*Ptychio* in Greek), after a minimum of four years of studies. Moreover, intra- and inter-Departmental programmes offer an expanding range of taught and research-based postgraduate degrees. Facilities for academic work and research are growing fast, but because of the poor ratio between academic staff and students in many Departments, presently, the possibilities for individualized attention to students and project work are limited, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. The number of Greek and foreign students to be admitted as full-time students each year is determined by the Ministry of Education, but Faculties and their academic staff decide on the number of European students on mobility programmes each semester. Actually, international students are welcome in the University of Athens and, in recent years, the number of non-Greek nationals studying in the various Faculties has increased. Some of them are enrolled as full-time students in undergraduate or postgraduate programmes, while others are exchange students, studying at the University of Athens for one or two semesters and participating more or less actively in its academic life and in the rich cultural life inside and outside the university. Indeed, many foreign but also Greek students feel it is a privilege for them to be living in the historic and cosmopolitan city of Athens, and to be studying in a university that has maintained its tradition and prestige for 180 years.

**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION, NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN
UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS (NKUA) (<http://www.primedu.uoa.gr/english.html>)**

Over the past twenty years of its operation the Faculty of Primary Education has managed to develop a highly technical infrastructure. Thirteen laboratories in various cognitive areas were founded. Courses offered in the Faculty cover a large number of relevant academic disciplines bringing together theory and practice. All courses are regularly revised so as to respond well to contemporary social and educational needs. A sixteen-directional postgraduate programme is finally in place. The Faculty has been organized in an exemplary way and over the last few years it has attracted the interest not only of undergraduate candidates but also of graduates from other University Faculties. Finally, the Faculty's broader contribution to education and to society is significant. It has undertaken a lot of initiatives and projects, which aimed at the improvement of the teacher's status as well as of the quality dimension in education. So the Faculty runs special courses for teacher further education at universities and participates in in-service training for Primary and secondary school teachers. The Faculty comprises the following Departments:

- Sciences of Education
- Special Education and Psychology
- Humanities
- Mathematics and Informatics
- Physical Sciences, Technology and Environmental Studies.

Courses last 4 years. To obtain a degree, students must pass successfully 49 compulsory and optional subjects. The Faculty comprises the following Laboratories:

- Science education and environmental education
- Informatics
- Psychology
- Experimental Pedagogy
- Comparative Education, International Education Policy and Communication
- Social studies of mathematics, history, philosophy and the teaching of mathematics
- Teaching and epistemology of science and education technology
- Biophysical environment, neuroscience and learning
- Psychophysiology and education
- Speech therapy
- Social Sciences
- Art and Speech, and
- Applied Linguistics and Modern Greek Language Teaching Laboratory

Individual Research Project

A description of all relevant information about **ESRs' individual research project** (project title, host institution, supervisors, link, specific requirements and expected results) is followed:

Fellow: Factors-*ESR4*

Project Title: Accommodating attention problems using Computerized Adaptive Testing in the measurement of reading and spelling (WP1).

Host Institution: National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA)

Supervisors: Georgios Sideridis (UOA), Ioannis Tsaousis (UOC) and Mikko Aro (JYU)

Specific Requirements

ESR4 will work on the development and validation of instruments related to reading and spelling for the Greek population including a normative sample and individuals with attention problems by use of Item Response Theory (IRT) as Computerized Adaptive Testing (CAT) instruments. The work is more so targeted towards psychometrics, measurement and psychometric theory, and the use of classical test theory methods and modern methods when developing those instruments. The required skills weigh heavily psychometrics and programming using knowledge from the neurosciences in order to develop the instruments under study.

Expected results

- (1) To develop measures of reading and spelling using knowledge on these processes from the neurosciences.
- (2) To apply the principles of classical test theory and modern methods in the development of these instruments.
- (3) To develop computer programs (in R or C++) in which computerized adaptive testing methodologies will be applied to these instruments.

Eligibility criteria

Successful applicants should:

- (a) Must **not** have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation **for more than 12 months** in the 3 years immediately prior to the contract commencement date. In other words applicants must have resided **outside of Greece** for more than 2 years in the last three years.
- (b) Have a proven knowledge of **the theme** of the *Neo-PRISM-C training in Trans-diagnostic risk, protective factors*, as judged based on outstanding results within a diversified career path, publication activity, and teaching, supervision, teamwork, knowledge transfer, and management.
- (c) For entry into either Ph.D. program, a Bachelor's degree in Psychology or Education, or Statistics, or Measurement or related fields and Master's degree in the same fields **from an accredited University are required**.

Women and men from all countries are encouraged to apply. The recruitment milestone for all ESRs is estimated at the 6th month from the ETN start.

Offer Requirements

Qualifications

1. A University degree in psychology, education, statistics or measurement and a Master's degree in the same fields including an emphasis in neuroscience.
2. Excellent written and spoken Greek skills
3. Excellent written and spoken English skills (applicants are required to provide relevant proof).
4. Good statistical knowledge of exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis.
5. Good statistical knowledge of item response theory
6. Some knowledge on programming using R, Python, and/or C++ or other.
7. Knowledge of SPSS, Mplus, Stata, R, or other commercial or freeware statistical packages.
8. Experience in developing measures/instruments in psychology and education.
9. Experience in evaluating measures/instruments in psychology and education using classical or modern psychometrics.
10. Knowledge and expertise in the neurosciences.
11. Strong organizational and planning skills and ability to take initiatives.
12. Demonstrated experience with research and an ability to work with international research teams whose work focuses on children from special and vulnerable populations will be considered an advantage.

Additional information

Overall, *Neo-PRISM-C* will offer the ESRs:

- Project-specific research in neurodevelopmental disorders
- Full-time employment for 3 years with a competitive salary and additional resources to take part in international conferences and collaborations
- A PhD-degree after the completion of the research project
- Secondments to partner organizations
- Participation in workshops and courses /training on scientific and entrepreneurial skills, as well as excellent supervision
- Competitive salaries and additional resources to take part in international conferences and collaborations
- Membership of world-renowned labs, as part of a motivated interdisciplinary team

Benefits

Post Financial Terms

The *Neo-PRISM-C* consortium comprises eight teams from several European countries and N. America partners and has a total budget of €4 million. The post for the ESR is **a full-time** and fixed term for one year with a possible renewal for another two years, with an expected start date September 2, 2019. Salary will be €32,412 per year, including comprehensive health insurance and social security plans. Salary will be supplemented with Mobility Allowance (€600 per month). Qualified applicants based on family status may receive an additional Family Allowance of €500 per month.

How to apply

Candidates are asked to submit the required documents in a single pdf file via email, to Dr. Georgios Sideridis at gsideridis@primedu.uoa.gr until **April 30, 2019, 14:30 EET**:

- Letter of motivation (research interests, research career goals, skills, experience, reasons for applying to the program and the specific host organization)
- A full updated CV (including among other information, personal details with complete contact data, work, and education history, etc.)
- Copies of relevant degrees and English Language proof of proficiency
- Two references
- After the deadline the applicants will be asked to participate on face to face (if possible) or online interviews.

For more information, please contact:

Professor Georgios Sideridis

Address: Navarinou 13A, 10680 Athens, Greece.

Telephone: +30-210-3688030

email: gsideridis@primedu.uoa.gr

Deadline for the first round of applications is **April 30, 2019**.