



## ***Experimental Scientist***

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

- Job title:** Experimental Scientist
- Department:** Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS)
- Place of work:** CESS China – Nankai University, Tianjin, China
- Responsible to:** Professor Raymond Duch, Director of CESS
- Rate:** £15.00 per hour
- Hours:** 110 hours per month (minimum of 25 hours per week)
- Length of contract:** One year in the first instance, with the possibility of extension

The Nuffield College Centre for Experimental Social Sciences (CESS) seeks to appoint an Experimental Scientist contractor based in CESS China at Nankai University, Tianjin, China. CESS China has two fully networked computer labs that are used by a wide range of social scientists to run experiments for research in diverse social science disciplines. CESS China also works with the CESS Online operation to offer interactive large-scale experiments implemented with subjects from the CESS China subject pool, on a WeChat app platform.

The Experimental Scientist will be part of the CESS network of experimental scientists who are located in Oxford, Santiago in Chile, Pune in India, and Tianjin in China, and she or he will work closely with the CESS worldwide team. Duties include assisting with the development of the CESS Online platforms, developing online and lab subject pools, advising and assisting researchers in programming experiments, and promoting CESS China and experimental social sciences in China. This opportunity would be ideal for individuals with a strong technical background trained in computer science or experimental programming and data analysis. Familiarity with experimental methods is desirable although not necessary.

The contract is available from 1 April 2018 or as soon as possible thereafter and is fixed-term for one year in the first instance, with the possibility of extension.

### **The Centre for Experimental Social Sciences**

CESS was created by Nuffield College, Oxford, in February 2008. Its principal goal is to promote and facilitate experimental research by social scientists. In order to accomplish this goal CESS provides a number of services to the experimental community: experimental lab facilities, staff and facilities for designing and implementing online and field experiments, regular seminars and workshops, and a post-doctoral programme. The current group of postdoctoral researchers have backgrounds in politics, economics, and social psychology.

The Centre has collaborative Experimental Lab facilities throughout the world: at Nuffield College in Oxford; at the University of Santiago in Chile; at FLAME University in Pune, India; and at Nankai University in Tianjin, China. CESS Online conducts online experiments worldwide.

Further information about CESS can be found here: <https://cess-nuffield.nuff.ox.ac.uk/>.

### **Duties of the Contractor**

- Scheduling and overseeing the lab and online experiments conducted in the CESS China facilities. Experiments are conducted by a variety of individuals including faculty, graduate students and post-docs, from both within and outside China.
- Maintaining and supporting software applications, including programming experiments in z-Tree and oTree (Python) and other programming languages such as JavaScript.
- Assisting with the development of the CESS Online subject pool, using software designed for recruiting and managing the subject pool databases such as ORSEE or HROOT.
- Assisting with the implementation of CESS Online experiments, and conducting integrations based on social media mobile applications (e.g., WeChat).
- Facilitating and coordinating the CESS China lab-in-the-field experiments. This includes overseeing necessary equipment purchases and maintenance, server and router support, and software installations.
- Managing a team of student assistants, who are hired to support the Experimental Scientist with the implementation of experiments.
- Cooperating with the local IT support at Nankai University to maintain the lab hardware in excellent operating condition.
- Coordinating activities with CESS Nuffield on the setup and configuration of lab hardware and software, and assisting when necessary in the development and carrying out of experiments in other CESS locations.
- Some travel to the other CESS facilities may be required, possibly including lab management training at CESS Nuffield.
- Maintaining data integrity at CESS China in accordance with the very strict CESS guidelines on data integrity. This task includes archiving the code and data generated as part of CESS China lab experiments.

The Experimental Scientist will report to the CESS Director Raymond Duch.

### **Selection criteria**

#### *Essential*

- Fluent spoken and written English and excellent spoken and written Chinese.
- A Master's (or higher) degree in Computer Science or in a related applied field.

- Knowledge and experience of programming experiments in z-Tree and oTree (Python), together with experience of programming in at least one other programming language, such as JavaScript.
- Familiarity with software designed for recruiting and managing subject pool databases, including customized software such as ORSEE or HROOT.
- Experience of working with SQL or MongoDB databases.
- Experience of working with social media mobile applications such as WeChat.
- Good knowledge of networks, servers, and clients.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills.

*Desirable*

- Experience of running social science experiments.
- Experience working with basic web technologies, such as HTML and CSS, as well as more complex technologies such as PHP.
- Experience with statistical analysis software (such as R and Stata).

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Interested candidates should send an application package via e-mail as a single .pdf attachment, to [CESS@nuffield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:CESS@nuffield.ox.ac.uk). The application package should consist of:

- i) a two-page description of your research training, experience and motivation and how these meet the requirements of the position; and
- ii) a curriculum vitae including the names and e-mail addresses of two academic or professional referees.

The deadline for receipt of application packages is **February 1, 2018**. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and candidates may be invited for interview in advance of the closing date. Candidates who would like to be interviewed at the ASSA conference in Philadelphia should submit applications by January 1, 2018.

If a candidate is invited to an interview before the closing date, we may contact referees directly before the deadline.

Enquiries: [CESS@nuffield.ox.ac.uk](mailto:CESS@nuffield.ox.ac.uk).

***Nothing in these particulars constitutes a contract.***

*Nuffield College exists to promote excellence in education and research, and is an equal opportunities employer committed to equality and valuing diversity. Applications are particularly welcome from women, from disabled people, and from black and minority ethnic candidates, who are currently under-represented in posts in the College.*