

## LAEL Sprint Internship-

For four exciting weeks during the summer, I completed a fascinating internship; focusing on analysing neuroscientific evidence for linguistic relativity.

It was a really interesting hands-on experience of working as a research assistant at Lancaster University's PERLL (perception and learning laboratory). Assisting expert academics in the field of neural basis of language was an academic field that I found incredibly challenging but really intriguing.

My role involved helping to recruit participants to participate in our studies and also setting up individuals with caps filled with gel to measure the electrical activity transferred from the brain. I was also tasked with categorising and analysing some of the data that had been gathered by the studies and had to create reports based on existing literature in the field of linguistic relativity.

The internship provided a really amazing experience to work with Aina Casaponsa and Panos Athanasopoulos and engage and assist in their research projects. It was also a really great to learn about 'Bilingual Cognition' and address the famous research question 'Does language change how we see the world?' through the ongoing linguistic relativity research.



All hooked up and ready to go!



Showcasing My Office

As well as being an assistant in the incredible PERL lab here at Lancaster I also got to participate in many of the studies myself, to gain a personal insight about how the participants would be feeling throughout the experimental procedure. I was given my own office in the Linguistics department which provided space to read up about how to carry out effective ERP research and analyse some of the results we had gathered from the studies.

Overall, the internship was a really amazing experience that I would strongly recommend to any Linguistics student with an interest in psycholinguistics, bilingualism or linguistic-relativity. I gained so many skills from improved communication from interacting with a wide demographic of participants of staff and students across the university to learning how to safely set-up and carry out EEG and ERP experiments. Everybody should apply for this amazing (paid) opportunity because it's the best kind of work-experience and you take away really interesting knowledge and so many newfound skills.

Jess Renyard, Third Year English Language and Linguistics BA