



BASQUE CENTER
ON COGNITION, BRAIN
AND LANGUAGE

Invitation to sponsor *Juan de la Cierva* Postdoctoral Fellowship



The **Spoken Language** research group (<https://www.bcbl.eu/en/research/research-groups/spoken-language>) at the Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language (Spain) aims to sponsor a candidate for a *Juan de la Cierva* Postdoctoral Fellowship (awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities – see last year’s call [here](#)).

Our group studies how humans process the fundamental units of spoken language, focusing on speech sounds and words. For example, we investigate how words are decoded, how new words are learned, and how components of words (segments like consonants and vowels) are processed by listeners.

On-going research lines include:

- Phoneme (speech sound) categorization
- Spoken word recognition
- Word learning
- Second language learning
- Bilingual language processing
- Accented speech processing

We use behavioral, eye-tracking, and electrophysiological (EEG) paradigms, while our group also has access to state-of-the-art neuroimaging equipment (<https://www.bcbl.eu/en/infrastructure-equipment>).

The ideal candidate would be a recent PhD graduate (in Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Linguistics, Speech Pathology, or related) with a strong interest and relevant background in studying how humans process spoken language.

The selected candidate will be invited to apply for a *Juan de la Cierva* fellowship (i.e., awarded by the Spanish Ministry). The *Juan de la Cierva* contracts are for **2 years**. Approximate gross salary: ~30,000 €/year. Further details about the position will be available in the official announcement (expected to be announced in December 2024 - last year’s call can be found [here](#)).

Required skills:

- A **PhD** (in Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Linguistics, Speech Pathology, or neighboring areas) **obtained from January 2023 until December 2024** (extensions may apply, e.g., in the case of maternity).
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in **English** (knowledge of Spanish and/or Basque will be an asset for this particular position, but it is not required).
- Previous experimental experience in **psycholinguistic research**.
- **Statistics** skills (R, SPSS, or other).

Desirable skills:

- Good publication record commensurate to the career stage.
- Programming skills.
- Previous experience with eye-tracking and/or EEG.

Eligibility: No nationality restrictions apply. Multiple applications to the *Juan de la Cierva* program by the same applicant are cause of automatic exclusion of the candidate.

Pre-selection process: During the internal BCBL pre-selection process, the fit between each potential applicant and the research group will be evaluated. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview by videoconference and/or in-person by the contact person. The selected candidate will be notified by January 2025 and will be invited to apply for a *Juan de la Cierva* fellowship, supported in the process by the BCBL admin team. The provisional results of the *Juan de la Cierva* call are expected to be announced by the Spanish Ministry in the summer of 2025.

Expected starting date: Fall 2025 (and no later than Sept. 2026 - see official call for details).

Interested candidates are invited to send their CV and a research statement, as well as contact data of 2-3 referees to Dr. Efthymia Kapnoula (e.kapnoula@bcbl.eu). Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.