

## **Forensic Audio/Acoustics Analyst**

A full-time position is shortly to become available for a Forensic Audio/Acoustics Analyst at JP French Associates. The firm, based in York, is the UK's longest established independent forensic speech and acoustics laboratory and provides services to police forces and other law enforcement agencies throughout the UK and internationally, as well as to independent law firms.

General information about the firm can be found [here](#), and the range of services it provides is available [here](#).

The post will be based in our lab in York.

It is envisaged that the person appointed will ultimately be responsible for the areas of analysis and processing of recordings listed below. However, it is not expected that candidates will have direct knowledge and experience in all or most of the areas, but that they will have the requisite background knowledge of acoustics /audio engineering and - desirably - forensics to enable them to develop the relevant skills and adapt and apply themselves to the tasks.

- Authentication – the investigation of recordings for evidence of editing and tampering and determination of the circumstances in which they were made (time, date, physical location);
- Enhancement – the processing of recordings to remove extraneous noises and improve the intelligibility of speech;
- Sound source analysis – the analysis of sounds or speakers within recordings to determine their source or location;
- Acoustic reconstruction – the investigation of sound propagation at crime scenes to assess issues of audibility and/or intelligibility of speech and other sounds;
- Digital audio services – retrieval or transfer of audio materials from physical or digital exhibits and providing edited or compilation audio exhibits for investigations or court purposes;
- Transcription – provision of written transcripts of poor quality and covertly made recordings which are often difficult to decipher.

The firm is currently in an advanced state of preparation for going forward to accreditation from the UK Forensic Science Regulator under ISO1705, and the appointee would be working towards [those standards](#).

Additionally, he/she will be expected to provide some technical and IT support to the rest of the team.

Training will be given in respect of forensic analysis techniques, the requirements of working to the standards set by the UK Forensic Regulator and broader aspects of working in the legal system.

Attributes sought in candidates include:

### ***Essential***

- Degree (undergraduate or postgraduate) in acoustics, audio engineering or a closely related subject;

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- Ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing - to present and defend technical and scientific findings and processes to people without technical/scientific backgrounds (lawyers, juries);
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team – to get along with colleagues in a small close-knit working group;
- Preparedness to travel and sometimes be away from home for brief periods when giving evidence in court.

***Desirable***

- Knowledge of phonetics and acoustics of speech;
- Knowledge of/experience in forensics;
- Knowledge of/experience in IT;
- Professional knowledge of legal/judicial processes.

We would hope to appoint someone with sufficient relevant background that they can progress rapidly, but in supported and controlled stages, from point of entry to the firm to writing their own reports and representing their work as an expert witness in court. To this end, JPFA has a mentoring system and regulated staff training scheme.

***Terms of employment*** include 25 days paid holiday a year (in addition to bank holidays) and enrolment in a pension scheme. The successful applicant would also be required to pass security clearance with a department of HM Government and with the Metropolitan Police.

***Salary*** is by negotiation and very much dependent upon the starting attributes/experience/qualities of the applicant, an assessment of their training needs and the timescale required to progress them to expert witness status.

***Starting date*** is as soon as possible when Government restrictions are lifted to allow working from the laboratory and the firm's assessment of the safety of *in situ* working.

***Initial shows of interest*** are invited by email or phone to Prof Peter French:

enquiries@jpfrench.com +441904 634821