

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (Call ID: 150/2026)**Post/s of Full-Time Research Support Officer II (Speech Language Pathologist)****Project KTT_ASR - "Automatic Speech Recognition for Evidence-based Child Speech Assessment"****Funded by the R&I Thematic Programmes: Digital Innovation Programme 2026 of Xjenza Malta**

And any other projects undertaken by the Department of Human Communications Science and Disorders, Faculty of Health Sciences.

1. Applications are invited for a Research Support Officer (RSO) to carry out duties in relation to the **KTT_ASR** project. The RSO may also be required to work on projects undertaken by the Department of Human Communications Science and Disorders, Faculty of Health Sciences.

2. Applicants **must** have a Master's degree in Communication Therapy/Audiology.

The University of Malta is an Equal Opportunity employer.

3. Applicants must be self-motivated and have the ability to work both independently and as part of a team. Applicants must also be able to organise and prioritise tasks within stipulated timelines to meet interim deadlines. In addition, applicants must possess good written communication and academic writing skills in the English language.

4. The selected candidate must be living in Malta during the period of employment.

5. The post is for a period of up to 24 months.

6. The initial remuneration per annum, inclusive of any cost-of-living adjustment shall be €30,327.

7. Candidates must upload their covering letter, curriculum vitae, and certificates (certificates should be submitted in English) and contact details of at least two referees **through this form** <https://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/workatum-projects> by not later than **Thursday, 5th November 2026**.

Late applications will not be considered.

8. Further information may be obtained from <https://www.um.edu.mt/hr/recruitment/projects/> and should you have any queries, please send us an email on projects.hr@um.edu.mt.

Office of the University,
Msida, 23rd October 2026

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Post/s of Full-Time Research Support Officer II (Speech Language Pathologist)

Project KTT_ASR - "Automatic Speech Recognition for Evidence-based Child Speech Assessment"

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Further Information

1. KTT-ASR will develop speech recognition technology to support the assessment of children's speech in Maltese. Building on eMESA, the digital platform for the standardised Maltese-English Speech Assessment, the project will help speech-language pathologists transcribe, review, and analyse children's speech, taking into account typical development, speech sound disorders, and Malta's bilingual context. Over 24 months, an interdisciplinary University of Malta team will collect and securely manage consented speech recordings, develop methods adapted to Maltese child speech, and integrate these tools into eMESA. The resulting prototype will be evaluated with clinicians to assess its accuracy, usability and potential to reduce assessment time, with professional judgement guiding all clinical decisions. By bringing together speech-language pathology, artificial intelligence and human-centred design, KTT-ASR aims to support more consistent and efficient speech assessment while advancing language technologies for Maltese.

Further information may be obtained from Prof. Helen Grech at helen.grech@um.edu.mt. The RSO may also be required to work on other projects undertaken by the Department of Human Communications Science and Disorders, Faculty of Health Sciences and the Department of Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of ICT.

2. The appointee will be expected to work at such places and during such hours as may be determined by the University authorities.
3. The main duties and responsibilities of the appointee will consist of the following:
 - a. collect data from typically-developing children and those with a speech sound disorder;
 - b. write technical documentation, and prepare related reports within the stipulated time frames as specified in the project description;
 - c. support the process leading to ethical clearance of the research and various data collection tools;

- d. work with other research team members to jointly develop a pre-agreed work plan that apportions the project into a schedule of sub-tasks, which, taken together, meet all the project objectives on time;
 - e. work flexible hours, so long as the pre-agreed sub-tasks are delivered on time and to acceptable standards, keeping records of the actual time taken, on a task-by-task basis.
 - f. keep detailed progress reports and abide to all the conditions imposed by the project;
 - g. engage in the dissemination process with the relevant stakeholders via workshops/seminars and work with other research officers to jointly prepare educational material and publications;
 - h. organise a hackathon with the relevant stakeholders;
 - i. organise and attend regular project internal meetings and consortium meetings;
 - j. travel and attend meetings/conferences as the need arises; and
 - k. perform any other project-related task as instructed by the project coordinator and key experts.
4. The selection procedure will involve:
- a. scrutiny of qualifications and experience claimed and supported by testimonials and/or certificates (copies to be included with the application);
 - b. shortlisting; and
 - c. an interview and / or extended interview.
5. The post is for a period of up to 24 months, which will be subject to a probationary period, and to the provisions of the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University of Malta which are now or which may hereafter be in force.

Office of the University,
Msida, 23rd October 2026