



## 1 Advertisement

**Post Title:** Research Technician

**School/department:** School of Psychology

**Hours:** full time, part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE /36.5 hours  
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

**Location:** Brighton, United Kingdom

**Contract:** fixed term until for 36 months

**Reference:** 10456

**Salary:** starting at £24,144 rising to £27,396 per annum, pro rata if part time

**Placed on:** 10 March 2023.

**Closing date:** 01 May 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**Expected interview date:** To be confirmed

**Expected start date:** 01 August 2023

A BBSRC-funded Research Fellow position is available at The School of Psychology at the University of Sussex. This is a collaborative project between the Koya and Singer Labs. We will investigate the neuronal mechanisms of the emergence and suppression of the spontaneous recovery of cue-evoked food seeking.

We are looking for a person who will provide dedicated research technical support to our team. The qualified candidate will conduct activities such as:

- performing behavioural experiments related to appetitive learning in mice
- surgical procedures
- transgenic mice colony management
- the development and optimisation of behavioural neuroscience research tools

Qualified candidates should ideally have an honours degree in neuroscience (or related life sciences discipline). Excellent communication and organisational skills, ability to work collaboratively, while complying with both University and Legislative requirements are essential. Previous experience in performing the above-mentioned activities would be advantageous.

For further information and informal enquiries (not applications), please contact **Dr. Eisuke Koya** (email: [e.koya\[at\]sussex.ac.uk](mailto:e.koya@sussex.ac.uk)). Candidates are encouraged to send their CV's (with the names of at least two references).

The laboratory is part of a vibrant multi-disciplinary 'Sussex Neuroscience' research community on campus, consisting of systems, behavioural, molecular, and computational neuroscientists. The University of Sussex campus is located just 10 minutes away from the famous seaside city of Brighton.

Please note that this post would not entitle the successful applicant to apply for a Tier 2 UK Visa, and thus any applicant should ensure that they have the legal right to work in the UK

for the period of the post. The University of Sussex is unable to employ anyone who is unable to provide proof of permission to work in the UK. Should you therefore require further information, please visit the Home Office website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.*

## **2. The School / Division**

Please find further information regarding the school/division at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/>

## **3. Job Description**

<b>Job Title:</b>	Research Technician in Behavioural Neuroscience
<b>School:</b>	Psychology
<b>Location:</b>	CRPC and BRF buildings, University of Sussex campus
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 4
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Dr Eisuke Koya, Reader in Psychology

### **Purpose of the post:**

The provision of an effective and efficient technical service within the University for staff and students. Working in one or more laboratories, on one or more projects, under the direction of management. Providing additional support to teaching labs if required.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- 1 Assist with the provision of an effective and efficient technical service for staff and / or students.
- 2 Responsible for adhering to safe working practices in line with relevant local and legal requirements.
- 3 Carry out basic risk or CoSHH assessments as required under the direction of senior technician or academic staff.
- 4 The preparation of specialist (i.e. not generally commercially available) materials, compounds and solutions and/or the setting up and construction of apparatus involving modification / manufacture of apparatus using various techniques under the direction of senior technical or academic staff
- 5 Operation and basic maintenance, adjustment and repair of specialist apparatus, equipment and instruments within the laboratories under the direction of senior technician or academic staff
- 6 Prepare and carry out basic experiments, and collate results for interpretation
- 7 Maintain adequate laboratory records of methods, sample details and results

within specific research project(s).

8 Assist in the design (i.e. the methods of planning) of research experiments and in particular equipment / apparatus as directed by a supervisor or member of academic staff.

9 Providing general assistance to staff and students in the operation of laboratory apparatus / equipment, where appropriate.

10 Assist with the planning and organisation of resources for the running of the laboratories, to include assistance with the ordering of apparatus, and materials ensuring that adequate stock levels are maintained within policies laid down

11 Maintain the required level of tidiness and ensure that equipment is stored correctly and securely as directed by senior technician or academic staff

12 Attend laboratory or other meetings where appropriate. Liaise and communicate with other staff/technical groups and workshops across campus to share knowledge.

13 Instruct, train and provide guidance to other technical staff and students in the techniques and operation of particular equipment / apparatus as directed by the supervisor or the Principle Investigator

14 Undertake development activities where necessary in order to keep knowledge and skills up to date and relevant to subject specialism. Apply working knowledge of theory and practice, and share this with others as appropriate

15 Handle confidential information appropriately.

16 Carry out any other reasonable request of management.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date 2 Dec 2022

#### EXTRA FACTUAL DATA

Project specific duties:

This job description is not exhaustive but is a guide to the main functions and responsibilities of the post. It is subject to constant review in the light of changes and development of the project. The post holder may be asked to undertake such duties as may be properly delegated following discussion and consultation.

The post holder will be expected to work independently although supervision will be available in the event of a problem.

#### 4. Person Specification

##### Person Specification for the post of: Research Technician

#### SKILLS / ABILITIES

	Essential	Desirable
Proven ability to work independently and use initiative where appropriate.	x	
Demonstrable IT skills in Word, Excel, SPSS, email and internet.	x	
Competent in using and ability to rapidly learn how to use specialist lab equipment.	x	
Numerate & literate with good oral and written English communication skills.	x	
Good organisational skills with an ability to prioritize to meet set deadlines.	x	
Behavioural testing and surgical skills in rodents, ability to use Med-PCIV software, coding abilities (e.g. Python)		x

#### KNOWLEDGE

	Essential	Desirable
Working knowledge of Health and Safety e.g. conducting risk assessments, as it pertains to the environment.	x	
Significant knowledge of brain mechanisms of learning and memory, immunohistochemistry, microscopy and imaging		x
The technician is required to have sufficient knowledge and/or expertise to work on day to day issues in own area without direct or continuous reference to others.	x	

#### EXPERIENCE

	Essential	Desirable
Possession of a breadth and/or depth of experience showing full working knowledge and proficiency of own area of expertise and the ability to discharge the role effectively and efficiently.	x	
Experience of upkeep of consumables, collections and equipment and carrying out minor maintenance activities, housekeeping, waste management, stock control, ordering and record keeping.	x	
Proven experience of working in a	x	

neuroscience/molecular biology/animal behavioural lab and competently performing the relevant techniques.		
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QUALIFICATIONS	Essential	Desirable
NVQ Level 3 HNC/BTECH or equivalent professional qualification (RSCiTec) or experience in working in a scientific laboratory	x	
NVQ Level 4 degree or equivalent qualification or experience working in scientific laboratory		x
Honours degree in neuroscience or related field		x

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND CIRCUMSTANCES	Essential	Desirable
Willing to act as a point of reference to others and demonstrate continuous specialist development, acquiring and refining skills and expertise in new or related areas.	x	
Dependable and reliable.	x	
Willingness to coach and instruct other team members.	x	
Flexibility to work outside normal hours (e.g. weekends) if required for conducting behavioural experiments, monitoring rodent health, etc.	x	
Friendly and approachable.	x	
Willingness to learn about managing transgenic mouse colonies, rodent behavioural tasks and surgical skills	x	

The criteria should be changed to reflect the job description and the number of criteria boxes can be increased or decreased.

Date ...8 Dec 2022