



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow

School/department: School of Psychology

Hours: full time 36.5 hours

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need, but note that in-person testing during normal business hours will be required).

Contract: fixed term until 30 September 2023 for 6 months.

Reference: 10855

Salary: starting at £35,333 to £42,155 per annum, pro rata if part time.

Placed on: 10 February 2023

Closing date: 06 March 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: To be confirmed.

Expected start date: 1 April 2023

This is an exciting opportunity to conduct research on how we understand and remember events. You will coordinate and carry out data collection for a virtual reality study of event processing and memory undertaken by the Episodic Memory Group at the University of Sussex (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/memory/>). The research is part of the €2M "EVENTS" project lead by Prof Chris Bird and funded by the European Research Council.

You will join a group of researchers investigating the brain processes that underpin episodic memory. You will be experienced in designing and conducting experimental studies of perception and memory using head-mounted display systems. You will be educated to a doctoral level in psychology, cognitive neuroscience or a closely-related discipline. Your role will involve task design, recruiting and testing a cohort of participants, scoring and analysing the data, and writing up the results for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

The University of Sussex is a leading research and teaching institution and is ranked within the top 20 in the UK and the top 150 in the world. The School of Psychology at the University of Sussex is one of the largest centres for the study of psychology in the UK. The School was rated in the top 20 in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework. The School has recently been awarded an Athena Swan Silver Award.

Please contact Prof Chris Bird, email: chris.bird@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

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.

Core Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Cognitive Neuroscience

School: Psychology
Location: Pevensey 1 Building
Grade: Research Fellow I, 7.i
Responsible to: Chris Bird
Direct reports: none

Role description:

Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff. Their key responsibility will be to undertake a virtual reality study of event processing, using a head-mounted display. This will involve creating the task, recruiting and testing adult participants, managing, processing and analyzing behavioural data and eye-movement data, and preparing a manuscript summarizing the results.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.
- 1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- 1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
- 1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.
- 2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
- 2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 Design and undertake a virtual reality study of event processing, using a head-mounted display
- 4.2 Apply for ethical approval
- 4.3 Analyse behavioural and eye-movement data
- 4.4 Pre-register analyses on the Open Science Framework
- 4.5 Write up the analyses in the form of an accessible report and a journal article

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 level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice or creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Experience in conducting cognitive studies of perception and memory using a Head Mounted Display
2. Experience in collecting and analyzing eye movement data
3. Experience of obtaining ethical clearance for research studies

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Knowledge of research into the cognitive neuroscience of memory
2. Experience of writing scientific manuscripts for publication
3. Experience in and knowledge of open science practices