UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow
School/department: School of Life Sciences
Hours: Full time – 36.5 hours, part time hours considered
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: fixed term until at least 01 April 2024
Reference: 10859
Salary: starting at £35,333 to £42,155, pro rata if part time
Placed on: 16 February 2023
Closing date: 09 March 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: To be Confirmed
Expected start date: 01 April 2023

A post-doctoral position funded by the Wellcome Trust is available in the laboratory of Leon Lagnado to study circuit mechanisms underlying simple forms of visual memory in mice. Fluorescent reporters of neural activity will be used in conjunction with advanced imaging methods and behavioural assays to investigate contrast adaptation in primary visual cortex of mice and it's adjustment associated with the process of habituation.

We are a very active research group (https://lagnadolab.com) embedded in a strong research culture in which a number of other groups use imaging and electrophysiology to study neural circuits involved in sensory processing (http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexneuroscience/). We are located in the vibrant city of Brighton and London is 1 hour away.

Applicants must have (or be about to get) a PhD in experimental neuroscience. Experience with multiphoton imaging in awake mice and the development of behavioural assays is essential.

Informal enquiries are strongly encouraged and should be made to Leon Lagnado (l.lagnado@sussex.ac.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.

Please note that this position may be subject to ATAS clearance if you require visa sponsorship.

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
https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/sussex-neuroscience/

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow

Department: **Neuroscience**

Section/Unit/School: **Life Sciences**

Location: **CRPC 5.03**

Grade: **7.1-7.6**

Responsible to: Professor Leon Lagnado

Responsible for: Job Title of direct line reports (if applicable)

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.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.2 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.3 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

1.4 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.5 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.

1.6 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

1.7 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.8 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.9 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 To undertake research aimed at understanding the circuit mechanisms underlying simple forms of visual memory in mice.
4.2 To identify, develop and apply techniques to pursue the research objectives
4.3 To present scientific work at seminars within the Laboratory and at external meetings
4.4 To contribute to lab-wide discussions on developments within the field
4.5 To draft scientific papers, and contribute to the overall preparation of research for publication
4.6 To assist in the training of PhD students and other members of the laboratory where necessary.

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 of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.

- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.

- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

4. 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. Strong 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. Good organisational skills.

7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Experience in research in experimental neuroscience.
2. A strong work ethic.
3. Commitment to high-quality research.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

3. Experience in use of mice for research.

4. Experience with development of behavioural assys couoped with multiphoton imaging.

5. Experience in analysis of behaviour.