1   Advertisement

Post Title: Lecturer in Neuroscience (Research and Education)
School/department: Department of Neuroscience / Life Sciences
Hours: Full-time considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE. Requests for flexible working options
Will be considered (subject to business need).
Location: Brighton, United Kingdom
Contract: Permanent
Reference: 20491
Salary: starting at £45,585 to £54,395 per annum, pro rata if part-time.
Placed on: 13 June 2023
Closing date: 15 August 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: To be confirmed
Expected start date: November 1st or As soon as possible

The School of Life Sciences is at the forefront of research in the biological sciences in the UK and the Neuroscience Department is a leading unit in its field at the international level. Our work seeks to achieve a mechanistic understanding of the processes that guide the formation, function and dysfunction of the nervous system. The department comprises fifteen independent research laboratories employing a range of molecular, cellular, physiological and imaging techniques and a variety of experimental models, including mice, zebrafish and flies. All our faculty have access to supervision across several PhD programmes, including the Sussex Neuroscience 4-year PhD programme, SoCoBio DTP and the Life Sciences PhD programme. An overview of research within our Department can be found here: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/neuroscience/research.

We are looking for an outstanding scientist to join the Department of Neuroscience as a Lecturer in Neuroscience (Research and Education). We want to appoint a candidate with a growing international research reputation, a talent for teaching and a commitment to positively engage with colleagues within the university and the public. The successful candidate will be committed to developing an ambitious research programme that builds on and complements current areas of strength in our unit, such as circuit neuroscience and optical imaging *in vivo*. We will encourage your creativity across boundaries and disciplines, within and beyond the life sciences, seeking to promote originality and excellence.

The post holder will be committed to the delivery of high-quality teaching in the broad areas of Molecular, Cellular, Systems and Translational Neuroscience and they will be key members of the teaching team, designing and delivering high-quality teaching across our degrees. You will have a rigorous, enthusiastic and collegiate approach to all aspects of student education, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to use technology innovatively in both research and teaching activities.

Candidates should hold a PhD in Neuroscience (or related discipline), possess a strong track record for their career stage, as well as a strong motivation to educate and inspire research students, as well as graduate and undergraduate students on neuroscience topics using a variety of teaching and assessment approaches.

Applications should be accompanied by a full CV, a statement of research interests and plans (not more than 2 pages), a brief account of their teaching experience and interests (not more than 1 page), and the names of three academic referees.

Further information and informal enquiries may be directed to Professor Claudio R. Alonso (Head of the Neuroscience Department) at c.alonso@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.

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2.   The School / Division

The School of Life Sciences has a mission statement *to enhance human health and environmental sustainability, through research, education and knowledge exchange.* It undertakes research, teaching and engagement across a wide range of the Life Sciences, from Chemistry through a range of biological and medically-related areas to Conservation Biology. The breadth and depth of cutting-edge research and innovative teaching practice requires a diverse community who work across boundaries to deliver excellence.

The School is the largest in the University in terms of research activity, with an annual research income of c£16m, and is one of the largest in terms of student and staff population: The School has a teaching and research faculty of around 100, over 200 research fellows and technicians, and an administrative team of around 25. We aim to develop scientists that are able to connect with global issues and develop innovative solutions to the challenges that face the planet.

Academics within the School of Life Sciences apply their research to create impact in areas as diverse as addressing neurodegenerative diseases, saving endangered species, fostering sustainable agriculture, and developing diagnostics for cancer and rare diseases. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), more than 96% of the School's research was rated as 'world leading', 'internationally excellent' or 'internationally recognised', putting us above many Russell Group institutions. As part of our research impact, we have developed relationships with business, policy and community partners. Our vibrant post-graduate research community is made up of around 180 PhD students and they are key to our success, undertaking cutting-edge research across all of our areas of interest in the Life Sciences.

Research in the School of Life Sciences is structured into six collaborative Departments, led by a Head of Department who is a leader in their field. These are *Biochemistry & Biomedicine, Genome Damage and Stability Centre, Neuroscience, Evolution, Behaviour & Environment, Sussex Drug Discovery Centre* and *Chemistry.* The Head of School (Professor Sarah Guthrie, in post since 2017) leads the Head of School Executive, which includes two Deputy Heads of School (one focused on research, the other on education), the School Administrator and the Director of Technical Services. Wider School organisation and administration is overseen by the School Management Committee, which includes the Subject Chairs and others in Directorship roles.

The School's teaching is firmly based on our research excellence and offers students an intellectually stimulating yet supportive experience, with opportunities for personal research experience and use of modern technology to enhance learning. The School has a population of around 1650 undergraduates studying a range of subjects across the School's expertise. For each degree we offer a 3-year BSc and a 4-year integrated Masters (MSci or MChem). We also offer a Life Sciences Foundation Year, which is ideally suited for students whose A-level (or equivalent) qualifications don't meet the requirements for direct entry on to our BSc/MSci degrees. We have a population of around 85 postgraduate taught students undertaking MSc or MRes courses across our subject expertise.

The School is committed to the University's core values of kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and courage. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (with representation on the School Management Committee) promotes and encourages our values across the School, championing initiatives that meet the University's goals of being Equal, Diverse, Accessible and Flexible. We currently hold an Athena SWAN Silver Award and have a BAME Awarding Gap Committee who closely liaise with the University's Race Equality Charter committee. The School also hosts a wellbeing room and a multi-faith prayer room within its estate and the University supports the Trans Rights are Human Rights UK initiative. We believe that equality, diversity and inclusion is everyone's business and aim to provide a friendly and supportive environment for all who work, study and visit the School of Life Sciences.

3.   Job Description

Job Description for the post of:	**Lecturer in Neuroscience**
Department:	**Neuroscience**
Section/Unit/School:	**Life Sciences**
Location:	**JMS/CRPC Buildings**
Grade:	**8**
Responsible to:	Head of School
Responsible for:	N/A
Role Description:	A Lecturer (Grade 8) post is a career-grade teaching and research position. Post-holders will be expected to demonstrate an established research portfolio, and a growing reputation in their field of study as well as taking full responsibility for the design, management and delivery of their own research and teaching. They will also be expected to provide support and guidance to less experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1.   To engage in individual and collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications to be submitted to the REF at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence, and to obtain research funding and/or knowledge exchange income as appropriate to the discipline.

2.   To design and deliver high-quality teaching programmes that are attractive to students.

3.   To contribute fully to the School and University by playing a significant role in working groups, committees, and other School and University activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1.   Teaching & Student Support

1.1   Engage in the planning, delivery and assessment of innovative high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, in liaison with the relevant programme and course convenors.

1.2   Identify, design, develop and manage new curriculum proposals that are attractive to students.

1.3   Develop high-quality inclusive teaching materials, methods and approaches, take responsibility for their quality, and ensure that they meet defined learning objectives.

1.4   Ensure that teaching materials remain up-to-date and relevant, incorporating advances in the subject area into the course of study, and utilising appropriate technology.

1.5   Set, mark, and assess coursework and examinations; select appropriate assessment instruments and assessment criteria, and provide constructive and comprehensive feedback to students.

1.6   Undertake continuous professional development to maintain an understanding of appropriate pedagogy in the subject area.

1.7   Supervise the work of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students, providing advice on study skills.

1.8   Contribute to the accreditation of courses and quality-control processes.

1.9   Undertake and complete administrative duties required in the professional delivery of teaching.

1.10   Undertake academic advising duties, and provide first-line support for sensitive issues, referring on as appropriate to services providing further assistance.

1.11   Adopt an approachable and accessible attitude towards students, offering office hours, informal advice etc.

2.   Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

2.1   Contribute to School research strategy and themes.

2.2   Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research.

2.3   Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

2.4   Assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research, and develop ideas for their application.

2.5   Produce high-quality research outputs that have impact in the field, 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.

2.6   Lead small research projects and/or identified parts of a larger project, including supervising the work of others and managing or monitoring a research budget, if appropriate.

2.7 Make presentations at conferences, or exhibit work in other appropriate events, and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media, and other forms of public engagement.

2.8 Identify sources of funding and secure or contribute to the process of securing bids.

2.9 Identify and secure opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy.

2.10 Actively build internal and external contacts, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.

2.11 Supervise doctoral students as part of a supervision team.

2.12 Contribute to a relevant national professional body or recognised events.

2.13 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2.14 Conduct risk assessments, and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to School meetings.

3.2 Engage in activities beyond day-to-day teaching duties, for example Admissions Days.

3.3 Assist with undergraduate and postgraduate recruitment.

3.4 Play a key role in School or University working groups or committees, as required.

3.5 Advise and provide support to less experienced colleagues.

3.6 Undertake additional administrative duties, as required by the Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 The appointee will be expected to develop an active research programme in modern neuroscience complementary to existing Departmental activity, and to teach relevant to their expertise and Departmental needs.

4.2 Contribute to core teaching via lectures, seminars, workshops, laboratory practicals, and supervising projects for Undergraduate and Postgraduate taught programmes, and of doctoral students.

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

- Regular published output of original research at international level (refereed journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text-books).

- Other evidence of original research contributions to the field, such as through invited conference contributions, membership of editorial panels, etc.

- Evidence of successful postgraduate masters and doctoral research supervision i.e. to completion.

- Sustained success in obtaining competitively awarded research grants and contracts, and knowledge exchange income.

- Involvement in the creation, transfer and use of the results of research through a range of knowledge exchange activities.

- Success in transferring research results to commercial, professional, public sector or other practical use.

- Evidence of contributions to a relevant national professional body or recognised event.

- A record of development of new modules/groups of modules, course or significant components of schemes of study or CPD courses.

- Proven and sustained track record of successful teaching at the levels appropriate for the post.

- A high standard of teaching performance as judged by standard evaluation methods.

- Evidence of using feedback information from a range of sources to improve the student experience.

- Evidence of using knowledge arising from research and scholarship to enhance teaching and curriculum development.

- Evidence of engagement in advising students and proactively responding to student problems.

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. Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage with students using a variety of different methods.

3. Experience of teaching at undergraduate and taught postgraduate level.

4. Evidence of significant independent contribution to the design and execution of research.

5. An emerging track record of publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

6. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

7. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

8. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

9. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

10. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

11. A willingness to participate in support activities beyond normal classroom duties.

12. Excellent IT skills, with the ability to produce high-quality learning support materials.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Recognised expertise in neuroscience allowing development of new knowledge and understanding within the field.

2. Ability to lead an original and competitive research programme in neuroscience, complementing current activities in the department.

3. Capacity to forge new and effective relationships with colleagues, internally within the Department and School, as well as externally, to foster collaboration across the University and with colleagues in other institutions.

4. Experience of supervising students in a laboratory setting, leading to successful student outcomes.

5. Ability to disseminate conceptual and complex ideas to a wide variety of audiences to promote understanding.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Consistent record of publication as lead or senior author in leading journals in the field.

2. Track record of successfully securing funding for research projects, as appropriate for career stage.

3. Expertise in modern neuroscience methodologies and approaches that complement those currently used in the department.

4. Experience of successfully supervising PhD students, as appropriate for career stage.

5. Evidence of successful supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate project students.

6. Proven track record of developing and devising teaching programmes/techniques/methods.

7. Membership of professional bodies and networks, if appropriate.