



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Senior Technician (x2) – Zebra Fish

School/department: School of Life Sciences

Hours: Full time – 36.5 hours

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: Fixed term until at least 1st December 2026

Reference: 22025 & 22059

Salary: Starting at £28,759 - £32,982 per annum, pro rata if part time

Placed on: 17 October 2023

Closing date: 31 October 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: To be confirmed

Expected start date: 1st December 2023

A position for a Senior Technician is available in the laboratory of Leon Lagnado, funded by the BBSRC. The post-holder will be responsible for contributing to projects involving the quantitative analysis of behaviour in larval zebrafish. The general aim of the projects is to understand the circuit mechanisms that adjust visual processing.

We are a very active research group (<https://lagnadolab.com>) embedded in a strong research culture (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexneuroscience/>). We are located in the vibrant city of Brighton and London is 1 hour away.

Applicants must be educated to at least Bachelor's level in a Neuroscience or Biomedical discipline, or have similar levels of experience. They should have some background in data analysis using Python. Previous experience in the analysis of behaviour in larval zebrafish would be an advantage. The post-holder may be provided with the opportunity to study for a PhD if they do not already hold this qualification.

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: **Senior Technician – Zebra Fish**

Department: Neuroscience

Section/Unit/School: Life Sciences

Location: CRPC 5.03

Grade: 5

Responsible to: Professor Leon Lagnado

Role description:

To provide and oversee the delivery of effective high-quality research support within the Lagnado research laboratory, relating to quantitative analysis of behaviour in larval zebrafish.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

In relation to a range of named services or processes, to:

1. To be responsible for the delivery of technical support activities associated with specialist research to ensure that provision is of an excellent quality and delivered in a timely, professional fashion.
2. Maintain, publish and disseminate information and appropriate communications to ensure services and processes are understood, utilised and applied.
3. To act as the main point of contact for service users in the effective and efficient delivery of technical services for a specific research group.
4. To support collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications;
 - To develop behavioural assays in larval zebrafish.
 - To analyze the results of behavioural experiments using Python and similar analysis software.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. To exemplify good working practice to achieve departmental objectives, in line with local policy and procedure, assist with the planning, scheduling and delivery of activities, events and meetings including, but not limited to;**
 - Helping to ensure that timelines and resources are identified, realistic and achievable
 - Proactively raising issues arising in advance for discussion and resolution
 - Co-ordinating the delivery of activities according to the schedule and in liaison with managers responsible for delivery
 - To act as an ambassador for the service, with a focus on customer service and delivery.
- 2. Communicating effectively with all stakeholders**
 - Contributing to the editing of local guidelines ensuring that content relating to own areas of responsibility is clear and understandable to readers, up to date and accessible
 - To deliver training (e.g. data logging, production work, equipment usage and techniques) to students, technicians and other demonstrators and provide day to day advice, supervision and demonstrating as required.
- 3. Providing support, information and guidance to staff and students.**
 - To be the first point of contact in answering incoming queries in a helpful and timely way and in line with service level agreements/KPIs, providing explanations where necessary and knowing when to escalate queries
 - Providing guidance on relevant procedures and processes
 - Ensuring staff and students are aware of procedures and processes
- 4. Liaising with colleagues with similar areas of responsibility and being actively involved in team meetings, networks, attending meetings, sharing information and contributing to the development of processes**
- 5. Creating and maintaining accurate information on activity that has taken place**
 - Creating comprehensive records and files for future reference
 - Providing usage and uptake reports as requested
 - Where required, to ensure staff and students working within specialist areas have received safety inductions and safety critical training according to Standard Operating Procedures, and that this is recorded.
- 6. There may be responsibility for recharging and/or a small budget.**
 - **To support and contribute to research aimed at understanding information transmission in the visual system in collaboration with others.**
 - **Develop research objectives and proposals for joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.**
 - **Analyse and interpret research findings and help draw conclusions on the outcomes.**
 - **Assist in the production of high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate.**
 - **Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.**
 - **To identify, develop and apply techniques to pursue the research objectives.**
 - **To present scientific work at seminars within the Laboratory.**
 - **To contribute to lab-wide discussions on developments within the field.**
 - **To contribute to drafting scientific papers, and contribute to the overall preparation of research for publication**

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

- Responsible for equipment within the Lagnado Laboratory.
- Responsible for the achievement of the aims of the research projects relating to quantitative analysis of behaviour in larval zebrafish

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Usually educated to Level 3 - NVQ Level 3, BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Advanced Diplomas (England)
2. Effective planning and organisational skills to organise own workload and priorities.
3. Effective oral and written communications skills to work with colleagues and customers providing information and responding to questions and queries.
4. Ability to work flexibly within a small team and also on own initiative.
5. Competent IT skills to effectively manage own workload – MS Suite. Or other IT software relevant to role.
6. Technical work experience relating to the area/department, acquired in relevant roles and job-related training.
7. Able to develop understanding of long-standing and complex problems and to apply professional knowledge and experience to solve them.
8. Knowledge of health and safety procedures and practices relating to relevant area

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Bachelors in Neuroscience or related discipline such as Biomedical Science.
2. Evidence of some previous engagement and commitment to high quality research activity in Neuroscience.
3. Strong presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with colleagues.
4. Background in software development using Python.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

5. A Masters level qualification in Neuroscience or related discipline such as Biomedical Science.
6. Experience in quantitative analysis of zebrafish behaviour.
7. Experience of involvement in a productive research project.