1. Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow  
School/department: Life Sciences  
Hours: Full time hours considered up to a maximum of 1FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered.  
Contract: Fixed term for 2 years.  
Reference: 5083  
Salary: starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum  
Placed on: 3 December 2020  
Closing date: 7 January 2021. To be discussed with HR. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.  
Expected start date: 01/03/2021

Research Fellow position is available in the laboratory of Tom Baden (www.badenlab.org) to work on colour processing in the visual system of anurans. Tadpoles and adult frogs will be established as animal models for the long-term as part of this project. Therefore, extensive experience with anurans husbandry, breeding as well as understanding potential and limitations for behavioural experiments are essential for this position. The aim will be to investigate the anatomical, physiological and behavioural basis of scotopic colour vision in different behavioural and environmental contexts. Characterisation of retinal cell types and connectivity down to synaptic-level resolution will be used and demonstrated previous experience in these fields will also be essential.

Applicants must have research experience in visual neuroscience, particularly in the fields of colour vision, anatomy and physiology of the retina together with expertise in the use of anurans as long-term research models in the laboratory setting including behavioural work. Familiarity with observations of diverse anurans in their natural environment and their ecological and phylogenetic diversity will be a distinct advantage. More about the laboratory and our previous work can be found at https://badenlab.org. Informal enquiries are strongly encouraged and should be made to Tom Baden (t.baden@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.

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)
2. The School / Division

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

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow

Department: Life Sciences

Section/Unit/School: Neuroscience

Location: CRPC

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Prof. Tom Baden

Responsible for: N/A

Job role:

To work on colour processing in the visual system of anurans.

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

2. Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

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

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.

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

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

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

8. Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism and engage in continuous professional development.
2. Teaching & Student Support

1. Undertake teaching duties, if required.
2. Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
3. Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

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

4. Role-specific duties

1. To develop and apply techniques to pursue the research objectives.
2. To present scientific work at seminars within the Laboratory and at external meetings.
3. To contribute to lab-wide discussions on developments within the field.
4. To draft scientific papers and contribute to the overall preparation of research for publication.
5. 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 be close to submission) 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 policymakers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

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. 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 with tadpoles’ and adult frogs’ long-term husbandry and breeding.

4. Experience in design and implementation of behavioural tests for sensory function in tadpoles and adult frogs.

5. Field experience with microhabitats used by a variety of anuran lineages.

6. Experience with retinal physiology.

7. Experience with immunohistochemistry and electron microscopy.