



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Technician

School/department: School of Life Sciences/ Evolution, Behaviour and Environment

Hours: Part-time up to a maximum of 0.8 FTE / 29.2 hours. Core working hours are 10.00-16:00. Requests for [flexible working](#) options will be considered (subject to business need).

Location: Brighton, United Kingdom

Contract: fixed term until 29/9/2023

Reference: 20832

Salary: starting at £22, 630 to £23,662 per annum, pro rata if part-time.

Placed on: 30 May 2023

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

Expected interview date: To be confirmed.

Expected start date: Before the end of June 2023

This vacancy is only open to those currently employed by the University (Including those employed through Reed, Chartwells, and SEF) and current Sussex students.

We wish to appoint a research technician to assist with behavioral experiments examining the pollen-foraging preferences of bees in the Nicholls lab.

The post-holder will be supervised by [Dr Beth Nicholls](#) (Project Lead, School of Life Sciences) and will work closely with a post-doctoral researcher to conduct experiments in flight cages in the lab to quantify the handling costs of switching between different flowers.

This post is suitable for those with a strong interest in animal behavior or entomology. Previous experience of working with insects or conducting learning assays would be an advantage but not essential. All training required to perform the role will be provided.

More information about the Nicholls lab can be found [here](#). Potential candidates are strongly encouraged to make informal contact with Dr Beth Nicholls (she/her) (e.nicholls@sussex.ac.uk) before applying.

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

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

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Technician

Department: Evolution, Behaviour and Environment

School: Life Sciences

Location: JMS Building, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex, BN1 9QG, Brighton.

Grade: 3.1

Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Head of School

Responsible for: n/a

Key contacts: Dr. Beth Nicholls, Dr Natacha Rossi

Job Description: Research technician to assist with behavioural experiments examining the pollen foraging preferences of bees.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To assist with the provision of an effective and efficient service for staff and students.
- Responsible for adhering to safe working practices in line with relevant local and legal requirements.
- Ensuring that tidiness, security and the provision of services is maintained at all times.
- The preparation of specialist (i.e. not generally commercially available) materials, compounds and solutions
- Carrying out maintenance, testing, adjusting and the repair of equipment / apparatus within the laboratories under the direction of senior technical staff. (Equipment that may be required to be operated may include autoclaves, pH meters, balances and centrifuges, together with specialist computer equipment).
- Providing general assistance to staff and students in the operation of laboratory apparatus / equipment, where appropriate.
- Collecting materials from stores and maintaining adequate stock levels within policies laid down.
- Providing general assistance in maintaining routine records
- Maintaining the required level of tidiness and ensuring that equipment is stored correctly and securely as directed by senior technical staff.
- Communicating with other staff on lab issues.
- Carrying out any other reasonable request of management.

Person Specification

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

Skills and Abilities

- A proven ability to work independently using initiative where appropriate.
- A proven ability to produce a high level of quality and quantity of work within the requirements of the job
- Numerate & literate with good oral and written English communication skills
- Good organisational skills

Knowledge

- The technician is required to have sufficient knowledge and/or expertise to work on day to day issues in own area without direct or continuous reference to others.

Qualifications

- GCSE or equivalent in English, Maths and 1 Science subject.

Personal Attributes and Circumstances

- Dependable and reliable.
- Ability to prioritise work to meet set deadlines
- Willingness to work as part of, and contribute to, a team.
- Flexible and able to adapt to change.
- Friendly and approachable

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

Skills and Abilities

- Demonstrable IT skills – Word, Excel, email and internet packages.
- Competent in using basic lab equipment

Knowledge

- An understanding of bee behaviour

Experience

- Experience of working with insects and conducting learning assays

Qualifications

- Qualified to BTEC First Certificate level or equivalent qualification or experience in a science or related subject.

Personal Attributes and Circumstances

- Willing to coach and instruct other team members.
- Flexibility to work outside normal hours if required.