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JOIN US! - Fellowship leading to Tenure (Track)!

We welcome applications from promising scientists who have obtained, or would like to obtain, competitively awarded Fellowships. We are keen to recruit and sponsor the very best researchers of the future and encourage applications from those returning from a career break.

How does this work?

In the UK, an increasing number of faculty recruitments now go via a 'fellowship route', where promising scientists (typically 'senior postdoctoral' stage) apply for competitive independent fellowships offered by the Government (e.g. BBSRC Future Leaders, MRC Career Development), Trusts (e.g. Wellcome Sir Henry Dale Fellowship) or societies (e.g. Royal Society Research Fellowship). These typically run for ~5 years (details do vary!) and pay the fellow's full salary plus additional funds for a small number of staff (typically 2-3) plus consumable/equipment/animal costs. Upon completion of the fellowship, subject to meeting 'key performance indicators' (KPIs, such as publication(s), new grant(s) etc.) the fellow is then taken over by the university onto a tenured (or tenure track) lectureship or senior lectureship position.

The details of this process vary a little between Schools, so depending on your subject area, be sure to check the relevant formal documentations, such as the [School of Life Sciences](#), [School of Psychology](#). These documentations also have key additional information.

The full process, from start to finish, is likely to take >1 year, so be sure to consider this in your intended timelines.

I am interested, what should I do?

In a first instance, have a look at fellowship options (see below), and then contact the Sussex Neuroscience directors Prof Tom Baden (t.baden@sussex.ac.uk; Life Sciences) and/or Prof. Chris Bird (c.bird@sussex.ac.uk; Psychology) with a brief description of your research background, future plans, and a short CV. We will discuss your profile internally and perhaps ask to have an informal zoom. This is to explore synergies and mutual interests, and to help identify which School and Department might best fit your profile.

If all goes well, we will probably invite you to give a talk, look around and meet relevant researchers, and to discuss options for one of our schools to sponsor your application for fellowships.



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Going forward, we would then also aim to support your preparation of the proposal, and if invited for interview (most fellowships have one), we would provide coaching.

If and when successful, you will then have the opportunity to discuss your starting date, space requirements etc, plus any additional support needed with your relevant head of school, and to formalise your progression KPIs for ultimately transitioning to a tenured position upon completion of the fellowship. Then, all that is left to do is to come here, set up, and do some great science!

Your colleagues will make sure to support you however they can, including by formal (and informal) mentoring and sharing of resources (e.g. equipment). Sussex Neuroscience and its affiliated schools and departments also offer a wide range of 'core' infrastructure, including a variety of microscopy platforms, fMRI scanners, two fully staffed research support cores (focussed on handling imaging data and open hardware/advanced microscopy), high performance computing, and a (perhaps unusually) wide variety of model and non-model animal species.

What about teaching?

In general, Fellows do not teach and are encouraged to concentrate fully on getting their research programme going. However, towards the end of the fellowship you may find it useful to engage a little with ongoing teaching activities on a voluntary basis, for example to build experience and in view of your specific KPIs, which may include some form of student engagement.

What fellowship options exist?

Depending on your research background etc, you may be eligible for one or multiple fellowships. The most likely ones include:

1. [Wellcome Career Development Award](#) (any field)
 - 3 rounds/year, deadlines July, November, March
 - Up to 8 years
2. [Royal Society Career Development Fellowship](#) (any field)
 - 1 round/year, deadline September
 - 4 years
3. [BBSRC Future Leaders](#) Fellowship (biological)
 - 1 round/year, deadline July
 - 4 years, with option to extend another 3 years
4. [MRC Career Development](#) Award (medical)
 - 3 rounds/year, deadline Jan/Apr/Sept



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- 5 years

In addition to those, other options do exist, plus there is also the option to apply for an [ERC](#) (note that ERCs are certainly another option, but their funding model works a little differently, so be sure to mention your intention to apply for one of these)

What is a faculty/school/department? How does Sussex Neuroscience fit in?

[Sussex Neuroscience](#) is a “[University Centre of Excellence](#)” that spans across four schools, all under the administrative umbrella of the [Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine](#).

Faculties are the main organisational units of the University. The faculty consists of schools: [Life Sciences](#), [Psychology](#), [Engineering and Informatics](#), [Medical school](#), and [Mathematical/Physical Sciences](#). Some of these schools further subdivide into “[Departments](#)”. For example, the School of Life Sciences encompasses the Departments of Neuroscience, Ecology and Evolution, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Biomedicine, Drug Discovery, and Genome Damage and Stability.

Why choose Sussex Neuroscience?

Sussex Neuroscience is a University of Sussex Centre of Excellence, reflecting our success as a richly interconnected community of researchers spanning all areas of contemporary neuroscience, and accounting for about one sixth of the University’s research income. It is made up of around 400 research students and staff working across 70 labs, with a further 150 students joining the taught neuroscience courses each year. We are all based on a single campus, which adjoins the beautiful South Downs National Park and sits a few miles inland from the vibrant seaside city of Brighton and Hove.

Sussex Neuroscience offers a vibrant and supportive environment to all of our diverse researchers’ exceptional new ideas, promoting collaboration across disciplines and training to the next generation of neuroscientists. We would love to welcome you to join us.