Brighton and Sussex Medical School
Clinical and Experimental Medicine
Research Fellow
Fixed term for 12 months, full time

Salary range: starting at £32,004 and rising to £38,183 per annum

Expected interview date: 8 December 2016

Expected start date: as soon as possible

Applications are invited for a full-time Research Fellow to work in the laboratory of Professor Sarah Newbury of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

RNA stability plays a critical role in the control of gene expression by determining the levels of mRNA which can be translated into protein. In this project, the successful candidate will carry out research into the role of ribonucleases in the regulation of gene expression in the fruit-fly Drosophila melanogaster. Techniques to be used will include RNA-seq, qRT-PCR and microscopy.

Applicants for this position should possess an Honours B.Sc (or equivalent) in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry or a related subject and a Ph.D (or equivalent) in Molecular Biology or a related subject. Experience of working with RNA and a good working knowledge of a range of molecular and cell biology techniques is essential. Previous experience of relevant laboratory work is required and good communication skills are essential, as is the ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

The post is based at the Medical Research Building, Falmer, BSMS, University of Sussex campus. At BSMS, we provide a stimulating and supportive environment with our expertise covering a wide range of experimental systems related to Biomedical Research. Further information about our research can be obtained from our website at http://www.bsms.ac.uk/research/

For informal enquires and for more information, please contact Professor Sarah Newbury (S.Newbury@bsms.ac.uk).

Closing date for applications: 28 November 2016

For full details and how to apply see:

www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs  www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs  www.bsms.ac.uk

The Universities are 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, mathematics, medicine and engineering at Sussex and Brighton.
Job Title: Research Fellow in Molecular Biology
Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7
Ref: 1365
School: Brighton and Sussex Medical School
Location: Medical Research Building
Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports: n/a
Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.

Role description: Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

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

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

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

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

1.4 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.
1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

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

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

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

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4.6 Role-specific duties

4.1 Execute experiments associated with the research project.

4.2 Read literature and design experiments appropriate to the project.

4.3 Contribute to the intellectual development of the project.

4.4 Perform research experiments as specified.

4.5 Mentor junior lab members.

4.6 Contribute to laboratory meetings.

4.7 Generate high quality data suitable for publication.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD 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 policy-makers.

- 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.

4. ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Proven research skills in molecular and cell biology techniques.

2. Experience of working with RNA.

3. Evidence of an understanding of the field of RNA Biology.

4. Evidence of an aptitude for working with large data sets.

5. Evidence of successful engagement in mentorship and teamwork within a laboratory.

6. Evidence of research productivity.

7. Able to work as part of a team, working co-operatively with senior and junior colleagues and sharing laboratory resources.

8. Able to adapt to a changing environment, learn new skills and use new technologies.

4.9 DESIRABLE 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. Research experience in carrying out and analysing RNA-seq would be an advantage.
4. Research experience in working on *Drosophila melanogaster* would be an advantage.

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.

**Senior leadership and management**

The Vice-Chancellor is the senior academic officer and, as Chief Executive, is responsible to the University Council for management of the University. He is supported by an executive group which includes the three Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Finance and the Director of Human Resources. The Heads of the Schools of Studies at Sussex report to the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The Registrar and Secretary heads the Professional Services of the University. In addition, under the University Statutes, the Registrar and Secretary is Secretary to the University Council. The Director of Finance reports to the Vice-Chancellor. The Director of ITS reports to the Registrar and Secretary, and the Librarian reports to one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

**The Medical School**

The School is an equal partnership between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton together with NHS staff throughout the South East Region. The arrangements for the School’s governance reflect this approach and students are awarded joint degrees of both Universities.

The School is fully committed to the principles of *GMC: Standards of Promoting Excellence*; it endorses the value of medical education in a multi-professional context, and promotes the highest possible standards in its three pivotal components of teaching, clinical practice, and research (both fundamental and applied).

There is an annual intake to undergraduate medicine of approximately 138 students. BSMS has proved exceptionally popular and has regularly achieved one of the highest application rates of any UK medical school. Students spend their first two years primarily on the universities’ campuses at Falmer; thereafter the focus shifts to the associated teaching hospitals in Brighton and the surrounding area. There are purpose-built teaching facilities in all areas.

The curriculum emphasises early clinical involvement, a broad range of experience and a firm foundation in basic science. A wide range of teaching and learning approaches are employed, tailored to the particular circumstances; we are not committed to a single method of delivery. Feedback from the National Student Survey has demonstrated an exceptionally high level of student satisfaction, with BSMS being consistently amongst the top 10 performing schools in the country with scores of over 90%.

The research undertaken at BSMS aims to make a genuine contribution to the evidence and science underpinning clinical practice, and to benefit people and patients in their health and wellbeing. We expect our key domains of research strength to be recognised on the international stage and these are represented by the new departments of Global Health and Infection (including HIV and sexual health) and Neuroscience (including mental health and neurology). We have made significant investments in research infrastructure, including a world-class Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre (CISC) housing a 3T and 1.5T MRI and a PET-CT scanner and a Clinical Investigation & Research Unit (CIRU) dedicated to patient-orientated research and early clinical trials.

Following the appointment of Professor Malcolm Reed as Dean in December 2014, the Medical School has undergone a strategic review and is currently undergoing reorganisation into the following Departments which will be fully established for the academic year 2016/17:

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Clinical and Experimental Medicine
Global Health and Infection
Neuroscience
Primary Care and Public Health
Medical Education

Administration. The Medical School’s Administration is led by the Medical School Secretary. The School’s 60+ support staff offer support to a range of functions including curriculum development and delivery, admissions, library and IT, communications, student welfare, human resources, research and finance.

The Universities

The Universities of Brighton and Sussex have formed a highly effective and successful partnership that has resulted in the creation of this first new medical school in the South East region outside of London. Each institution has its own distinct culture and each is proud of its history and achievements but they have a long and successful history of collaboration.

Research and teaching

Both universities are committed to excellence in teaching and research.

Sussex is a progressive university delivering innovative thought and action, with a worldwide reputation for excellence in research and discovery. Its distinctive approach leads to the development of high quality new research which crosses traditional boundaries, benefits and enriches society, and influences policy at international, regional and national levels. Sussex research has a positive impact on people’s lives. In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016, Sussex was ranked 23rd in the UK and 140th in the world for research influence.

The results of the government-commissioned Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014 show that over 75% of research activity at Sussex is categorised as ‘world leading’ (4*, 28%) or ‘internationally excellent’ (3*, 48%) in terms of originality, significance and rigour, whilst 98% of research activity at Sussex is categorised as either ‘world-leading’, ‘internationally excellent’ or ‘internationally recognised’.

The University of Brighton has a long and distinguished history of applied research. This serves to sustain and nourish its mission to help form professional and vocational careers. Ultimately, the university aims to transform the lives and experiences of people and their environments with research that matters. In the REF2014, 92% of its research was judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent in terms of the impact it makes, putting it in the top 25% for the sector. 38% of the university’s work in the Health Sciences was rated as world-leading.

BSMS made a major contribution to its host universities’ submissions in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014). The majority of BSMS staff submitted contributed to Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience, and Biological Sciences at the University of Sussex, both ranked 10th, or the joint submission with the University of Brighton (Allied Health Professionals, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy – ranked 27th). A smaller number of academics were submitted with Sociology and English at Sussex.

Brighton & Sussex

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals (BSUH) is the regional teaching hospital working across two sites: the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and the
University Hospitals NHS Trust

Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath. The Brighton campus includes the Royal Alexandra Children’s Hospital and the Sussex Eye Hospital, and the Haywards Heath campus includes the Hurstwood Park Regional Centre for Neurosciences.

In May 2014 the UK Government agreed the release of £420m to redevelop the Royal Sussex County Hospital site. The plans will see the site’s 19th century buildings replaced with new, modern facilities for the delivery of healthcare, for teaching and for research.

Revised August 2016 (PP-D)