



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow

School/department: School of Engineering and Informatics/Department of Informatics

Hours: full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE

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

The position involves a substantial amount of lab work which cannot be performed remotely. Part time arrangements can only be considered where the arrangement does not extend the position beyond the duration of the project. International travel may be required.

Contract: fixed term until 30 November 2022

Reference: 6783

Salary: starting at £34,304 to £40,927 per annum, pro rata if part time

Placed on: 13 September 2021

Closing date: 20 September 2021. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected start date: 01 October 2021

We are looking for a research fellow to perform behavioural experiments on *Drosophila melanogaster* within the Leverhulme funded per-odour coding project. You will fill the post of Dr Mario Pannunzi who has resigned from the project to transition into a career in industry, and hence join the project mid-way.

We are looking for an ambitious independently working researcher with experience behavioral experiments with insects and with olfaction. Interest in and experience with computational modelling would be a plus but is not required.

Please contact Prof Thomas Nowotny, t.nowotny@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

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 www.sussex.ac.uk/informatics

3. Job Description

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Systems Neuroscience
Grade:	Research Fellow I, Grade 7
School:	Engineering and Informatics
Location:	Chichester I Building, CI 168
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. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 Independent performance of behavioural experiments with *Drosophila melanogaster*

- 4.2 Develop and apply visual tracking methods for *Drosophila*
- 4.3 Data analysis and writing publications on experimental results
- 4.4 Optionally, computational modelling of fly brain circuits and behaviour

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 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.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Demonstrable and substantive experience with behavioural experiments in insects
2. Knowledge of and experience with olfaction in insects
3. Level of independence to develop behavioural work with limited supervision
4. Experience with tracking of insects

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. Interest in computational modelling