1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow
School/department: Psychology
Hours: Part time considered up to 0.4 FTE
We are happy to discuss flexible working options, both in terms of (i) distribution of hours across weeks, and (ii) remote working when not running lab studies. We also have some flexibility to start the contract later than the date stated below.
Contract: Fixed term for 12 months
Reference: 7293
Salary: starting at £34,304 to £40,927 per annum, pro rata if part time
Placed on: 7 December 2021
Closing date: 13 January 2022 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: to be confirmed
Expected start date: As soon as possible

As part of a British Academy (BA) funded research project we are looking to recruit a part-time (2 days/week) and fixed term (12 months) Post-Doctoral Research Associate (PDRA) to help us design, coordinate and conduct a series of laboratory studies. We are happy to discuss flexible working options.

The studies are aimed at elucidating the cognitive effects of alcohol (or placebo) intoxication in human subjects, including effects on (mis)perception of emotional facial expressions, and perception of potential hazards or risks. The studies form part of a larger project studying the implications of alcohol or drug intoxication for the criminal law.
We are interested in:

- Intoxicated mistake making relevant to the criminal law;
- Self-perception of mistake making and foresight;
- Identifying points of and criteria for legitimate blame.

The empirical, laboratory work will principally take place at the University of Sussex, in the Psychopharmacology Laboratories of the School of Psychology. The research will also involve 'in-the-field' study at Sussex and/or abroad.

The project represents a collaboration between the University of Sussex (Prof Hans S Crombag, School of Psychology and Neuroscience; https://profiles.sussex.ac.uk/p206917-hans-crombag); the University of Birmingham (Dr John J Child, School of Law; https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/law/child-john.aspx), and researchers at the University of Maastricht.

Candidates with a background in laboratory-based Experimental Psychology and/or
Human Neuroscience (or related experience), especially those having work in the area of human psychopharmacology, are encouraged to apply. Knowledge or interest in the criminal law is desired but not required.

Please contact Prof Hans Crombag (University of Sussex; h.crombag@sussex.ac.uk) or Dr John Child (University of Birmingham; j.j.child@bham.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 http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Post-Doctoral Research Associate (PDRA)

Department: Psychology

Section/Unit/School: Psychology

Location: Falmer campus, Brighton, East Sussex, UK

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Principal Investigators through to Head of School

Responsible for: n/a

Job Title: Research Fellow

Grade: Grade 7

School: Psychology

Location: University of Sussex, School of Psychology, Falmer Campus, Brighton, East Sussex, BN19QG, UK
**Key contacts:** Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University, Research collaborators.

**Role description:** 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.

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**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality data outputs and publications; and to develop research designs, experimental materials, laboratory protocols, and conduct and oversee experimentation.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. **Research, Scholarship & Enterprise**

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

1.2 Carry out experiments as needed for the timely advancement of research projects. Interfacing with the Principal Investigator on a regular basis to discuss results and project progression/direction. Prepare, collate, analyse and interpret research data, drawing conclusions on the outcomes and contribute to collaborative decisions with colleagues in areas of research.

1.3 Responsible for the preparation of special (i.e., not generally commercially available) materials, compounds and solutions or equipment.

1.4 Ensure the implementation of a safe working environment using good working practices, in line with relevant local and legal requirements. Undertake risk, or other safety, assessments and ensure standard operating procedures are in place and being followed to ensure the safety of others in the lab(s).

1.5 Responsible for the organisation and supervision of a research/general laboratory(s), forward planning when necessary to meet the needs of the research group.

1.6 Responsible for overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing procedures and developing new, or updating existing, procedures to improve levels of efficiency.

1.7 Responsible for analysing and interpreting research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.8 Produce high-quality research summaries and outputs for presentations and/or publication as appropriate.

1.9 Individually or with colleagues develop and maintain opportunities for knowledge exchange with external stakeholders.

1.10 Build and liaise with internal and external contacts and networks in order to form or maintain relationships and collaborations.
1.11 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field relevant to experimental studies.

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.

4. **Person Specification**

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Educated at doctoral level (completed or near completed), or other equivalent qualification.

2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.

3. Experience with experimental psychology laboratory research involving human subjects

4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

6. Ability to independently research and review relevant empirical and theoretical research literature and develop ideas for experimental designs;

7. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

8. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

9. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

10. Excellent IT skills.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Experience with human psychopharmacology research and alcohol administration protocols.

2. Experience with computerised experimental designs and protocols.

3. Experience with human research ethical review proposal preparation.

4. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.