UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Technician
School/department: Neuroscience, School of Life Sciences
Hours: full time, 36.5 hours per week
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: fixed term for 12 months
Reference: 8581
Salary: starting at £17,901 to £19,902 per annum, with real living wage adjustment
Placed on: 3 May 2022
Closing date: 30 May 2022 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: To be confirmed
Expected start date: As soon as possible

The School of Life Sciences is at the forefront of research in the biological sciences in the UK, coming in the top 10 in the REF 2014.

A short-term Research Technician position is available in the laboratory of Tom Baden (www.badenlab.org) to assist in study of information processing in the visual system of zebrafish.

The project will focus on re-examining existing spectral and physiological data using new approaches in computer vision and machine learning.

We are a very active research group located in the Neuroscience Centre, which also houses a number of other groups using imaging to study neural circuits involved in sensory processing (http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexneuroscience/).

An overview of research within the school can be found at School of Life Sciences

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds

The School of Life Sciences is committed to increasing the diversity of its staff and providing an inclusive working environment. The School currently holds an Athena SWAN Silver Award, has developed a Race Equity Action Plan and hosts an active Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group.

Applications are particularly welcomed from Black and minority ethnic candidates, and women, trans and non-binary candidates, who are under-represented in the School of Life Sciences.

Applications to posts from candidates who wish to work part-time or as job-sharers are welcome.

The University offers various schemes to provide real benefits to parents, these can be found at Family Friendly Policies

Applications should be accompanied by a full CV.

Informal enquiries are encouraged and should be made to Tom Baden (t.baden@sussex.ac.uk).

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

2. The School of Life Sciences

The School of Life Sciences has a mission statement *to enhance human health and environmental sustainability, through research, education and knowledge exchange.* It undertakes research, teaching and engagement across a wide range of the Life Sciences, from Chemistry to Conservation Biology. The breadth and depth of cutting-edge research and innovative teaching practice requires a diverse community who work across boundaries to deliver excellence.

The School is the largest in the University in terms of research activity, with an annual research income of c£16m, and is one of the largest in terms of student and staff population: The School has a teaching and research faculty of around 100, over 200 research fellows and technicians, and an administrative team of around 25. We aim to develop scientists that are able to connect with global issues and develop innovative solutions to the challenges that face the planet.

Academics within the School of Life Sciences apply their research to create impact in areas as diverse as addressing neurodegenerative diseases, saving endangered species, fostering sustainable agriculture and developing diagnostics for cancer and rare diseases. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), more than 96% of the School's research was rated as 'world leading', 'internationally excellent' or 'internationally recognised', putting us above many Russell Group institutions. As part of our research impact, we have developed relationships with business, policy and community partners. Our vibrant post-graduate research community is made up of around 180 PhD students and they are key to our success, undertaking cutting-edge research across all of our areas of interest in the Life Sciences.

Research in the School of Life Sciences is structured into six collaborative Subject Groups, led by a Subject Chair who is a leader in their field. These are *Biochemistry & Biomedicine, Genome Damage and Stability Centre, Neuroscience, Evolution, Behaviour & Environment, Sussex Drug Discovery Centre* and *Chemistry.* The Head of School (Professor Sarah Guthrie, in post since 2017) leads the Head of School Executive, which includes two Deputy Heads of School (one focussed on research, the other on education), the School

Administrator and the Director of Technical Services. Wider School organisation and administration is overseen by the School Management Committee, which includes the Subject Chairs and others in Directorship roles.

The School's teaching is firmly based on our research excellence and offers students an intellectually stimulating yet supportive experience, with opportunities for personal research experience and use of modern technology to enhance learning. The School has a population of around 1650 undergraduates studying a range of subjects across the School's expertise. For each degree we offer a 3-year BSc and a 4-year integrated Masters (MSci or MChem). We also offer a Life Sciences Foundation Year, which is ideally suited for students whose A-level (or equivalent) qualifications don't meet the requirements for direct entry on to our BSc/MSci degrees. We have a population of around 85 postgraduate taught students undertaking MSc or MRes courses across our subject expertise.

The School is committed to the University's core values of kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and courage. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (with representation on the School Management Committee) promotes and encourages our values across the School, championing initiatives that meet the University's goals of being Equal, Diverse, Accessible and Flexible. We currently hold an Athena SWAN Silver Award and have a BAME Awarding Gap Committee who closely liaise with the University's Race Equality Charter committee. The School also hosts a wellbeing room and a multi-faith prayer room within its estate and the University supports the Trans Rights are Human Rights UK initiative. We believe that equality, diversity and inclusion is everyone's business and aim to provide a friendly and supportive environment for all who work, study and visit the School of Life Sciences.

Job Description

Job Title:	Research Technician
Grade:	G2
School/Division:	Life Sciences – Neuroscience
Location:	CRPC/JMS Building
Responsible to:	Professor Tom Baden
Key contacts:	Lab Manager, Researchers, research technicians

Role description:

To provide basic support in effective high quality research support within Tom Baden (www.badenlab.org) to assist in the study of information processing in the visual system of zebrafish.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

In relation to a range of named services or processes, to:

1. To provide basic technical support activities within the project looking at information processing in the visual system of zebrafish.

2. To help with keeping the specialist lab tidy, clean and assist in the routine care of specialist technical areas and the materials within.

3. To assist with the upkeep, monitoring and operation of equipment and techniques within the research area.

4. Assist in computer-based analysis, and potentially experiments in visual physiology.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Working as part of a team and within the wider institution, in line with local policy and procedure, as directed assist with the planning, scheduling and delivery of research support the project investigating information processing in the visual system of zebrafish

2. Communicating effectively with all stakeholders

3. Providing support, information and guidance to staff and students.

- Assist in the answering of incoming queries in a helpful and timely way and in line with service level agreements, referring to others as appropriate more complex issues or ones that are outside of normal practice

4. Liaising with colleagues with similar areas of responsibility and being actively involved in team meetings, networks, attending meetings, sharing information and contributing to the development of processes.

5. Creating and maintaining accurate information on activity that has taken place

6. This role does not have any budget responsibility.
7. This role does not have any line management responsibility.
8. This role does not have any responsibilities for equipment or premises.

9. Support achievement of the Division's/Unit's/School's compliance with all applicable statutory and regulatory compliance obligations, including (but not limited to): UKVI, Health & Safety, the Prevent Duty, data protection, Competition and Markets Authority requirements and equal opportunities, as appropriate to the grade and role. Additionally, to promote good practice in relation to University policy, procedure and guidance in relation to those compliance matters in respect of students, staff and other relevant parties.

1. **Role Specific Responsibilities**

- Present scientific work at seminars within the lab, and potentially at external meetings if required.
- Contribute to lab-wide discussion about developments in the research field of vision

To carry out any other duties that are within the employee's skills and abilities whenever reasonably instructed.

This Job Description sets out current responsibilities 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

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Usually educated to Level 2 - NVQ Level 2, BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 2, 4-5 GCSEs at grade A* - C, Higher Diplomas (England)

2. With guidance, effective organisational skills to organise own workload and priorities.

3. Effective oral and written communications skills to work with colleagues and customers providing information and responding to questions and queries.

4. Ability to work flexibly within a small team.

5. Competent IT skills to effectively manager own workload – MS Suite.

6. Sufficient knowledge to ensure local health and safety, quality standards and specific aspects of compliance are upheld

7. Able to apply sufficient knowledge of relevant university systems and procedures and an awareness of activities in the broader work area.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Experience in a research environment
2. Machine learning and computer vision experience
3. Fluency in at least one widely used programming language

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Educated to Level 3 - NVQ Level 3, BTEC award, certificate and diploma level 3, GCE AS and A Level, Advanced Diplomas (England)
2. Proficient in the colour science acquired in relevant roles, education and job-related training
3. Significant experience working in a university or similar environment.
4. Software engineering experience
5. Experience with deep learning frameworks