1. Advertisement

Post Title: Senior Lecturer/Reader in Psychology
School/department: School of Psychology
Hours: Full time hours considered up to 1 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business needs)
Contract: Permanent
Reference: 8979
Placed on: 20 October 2022
Salary: starting at £53,353 to £61,823 per annum, pro rata if part time.
Closing date: 16 November 2022. Applications must be received by midnight of this date.
Expected Interview date: TBC
Expected start date: 1 January 2023

The School of Psychology is looking to recruit one full-time, education and research-focused faculty member at Senior Lecturer level, with expertise in clinical psychology and mental health that complements existing strengths in the School of Psychology. The School has seen substantial growth over the past three years and we are recruiting excellent candidates to join our motivated, energetic, and ambitious faculty, contribute to our high-quality teaching and learning, and promote an outstanding student experience. We are particularly keen to receive applications from candidates who would be able to teach diverse groups of students in the area of clinical psychology and/or mental health, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The post holder will also undertake supervision of postgraduate dissertations in the area of clinical psychology.

The University of Sussex is a leading teaching and research institution and is ranked within the top 160 in the world. The School of Psychology at the University of Sussex is one of the most academically diverse and influential centres for the study of psychology in the UK with considerable strengths in both research and teaching. We have a longstanding commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and we are proud to hold an Athena SWAN Silver Award (2020) for our work promoting gender equality. In the latest World University Rankings, the School is placed within the top 20 nationally. Psychology at Sussex was ranked 18th out of nearly 100 institutions in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework and receives excellent student ratings for its undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. We offer a very highly regarded undergraduate degree course and a suite of PGT courses, and we have a substantial group of doctoral students, supported in part by ESRC and Leverhulme Trust funded doctoral training programmes.

Informal enquiries may be made with the Head of School, Professor Robin Banerjee (robinb@sussex.ac.uk).

The University of Sussex is committed to equality of opportunity.
For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#).

The University of Sussex believes that the diversity of its staff and student community is fundamental to creative thinking, pedagogic innovation, intellectual challenge, and our interdisciplinary approach to research and learning. We celebrate and promote diversity, equality and inclusion amongst our staff and students. As such, we welcome applications from all, regardless of personal characteristics or background. All roles are open to flexible work arrangements as part of the university’s commitment to be flexible by default. Applications for a job share are welcome and would be considered fully for this role.
2. **The School of Psychology**

Psychology at Sussex combines cutting-edge, discovery-oriented research and strong engagement with policy-makers in health and social care, non-governmental organisations and the private sector. In this way we tackle contemporary challenges in mental and physical health, social inclusion and well-being. Psychology at Sussex ranked 18th out of 93 in REF 2021, with 50% of research recognised as world-leading and a further 38% recognised as internationally excellent. Detailed information about the School is available at [www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology).

Our flagship undergraduate programme is the BSc in Psychology, which takes more than 500 students per annum. We also offer a number of major/minor degree programmes via the University’s pathway system. In order to expand, diversify, and secure the excellence of our undergraduate body, we launched a highly successful Foundation Year in 2016. Indeed, the central Foundation Year team were awarded a Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence in 2019. We also recruit students to a number of high-quality postgraduate taught courses, and we have a vibrant community of doctoral students.

The School of Psychology has four research groups with a total of over 70 teaching faculty and a large number of PhD students. The research groups are:

- **Developmental and Clinical Psychology**: the core objective of the group is to translate research in human development to clinical, policy and public contexts. The group’s work includes cognitive development, behaviour genetics, socio-emotional development, developmental and experimental psychopathology, and research on mental health in a variety of clinical and community settings.

- **Social and Applied Psychology**: the group focuses on group and intergroup processes, identity processes, culture, well-being and health psychology. It uses a range of methodologies in laboratory and field settings, with a focus on applied relevance.

- **Behavioural and Clinical Neuroscience**: the research interests of this group include addictions, aging/dementia, affect/emotion, learning/memory, reward/motivation, decision making. The group conducts non-human animal, human and clinical research, emphasising translational links.

- **Cognitive Psychology**: the group has broad interests in language and communication, learning, memory, attention, perception, problem-solving and consciousness, with approaches that range from classic experimental psychology through to cutting-edge cognitive neuroscience techniques.

These research groups are the primary vehicles for the exchange of new research ideas, the development and informal peer review of new grant applications and articles, and the mentoring and appraisal of staff. Typically, groups meet fortnightly to discuss forthcoming conference presentations, ideas for new projects and work-in-progress. All grant applications are reviewed by senior colleagues to increase their quality and likely success rates.

All research and teaching faculty have one primary research-group affiliation. However, consistent with the interdisciplinary and collaborative ethos of the School, in practice many actively participate in more than one grouping. Indeed, the five Strategic Focus Areas of
research within the School span across these groups: 1) Neuroscience, 2) Mental Health, 3) Sensory Systems, 4) Applied Behavioural Science, and 5) Psychological Methods. We are also in the process of finalising a sixth Strategic Focus Area relating to ‘Changing Societies’.

The quality of our research is evident from outputs in premier journals across neuroscience and medicine, through experimental psychology to social psychology, while also encompassing quantitative-behaviour genetics and developmental psychopathology. Reflecting their international prominence in their respective fields, researchers in these four groups published over 1300 peer-reviewed journal articles and received over 40 national and international prizes and eminent recognitions, winning research grants and consultancies to a value in excess of £19m over the census period for REF 2021.

Cross-School and cross-university research centres facilitate interactions between these research groups and with other researchers in the University. Such centres are established to nurture new research activity, build more effectively on areas of academic strength and enhance the vitality of our research environment. They run research colloquia and facilitate shared access to important research populations (e.g. clinical samples, children and young people, participants in disasters and emergencies) and major items of equipment. Centres in which members of the School of Psychology play a prominent role include the following:

- **Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY):** based in the School of Education and Social Work, but with strong links to Psychology.
- **Rudd Centre for Adoption Research and Practice:** developing new insights into the cultural, social-relational, cognitive and emotional processes in the development of adopted children.
- **Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre (CISC):** provision of multimodal imaging facilities, including an on-site Siemens 3T MRI scanner, with an emphasis on quantifying the function and structure of the brain.
- **Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science:** a unique interdisciplinary centre spanning informatics, engineering, psychiatry, psychology and cognitive science.
- **Sussex Addiction Research and Intervention Centre (SARIC):** a merger of pre-clinical, clinical, and psychological research in drug addiction to pursue translational projects.
- **Sussex Neuroscience** pursues basic, translational and clinical neuroscience within the context of a vibrant collaborative research culture across Schools and Departments of the University of Sussex. It was established in 2013 following a £3M investment from the University of Sussex to unite neuroscience activities across campus, distributed across four Schools. It organizes various events, provides some advanced technical support, and funds a 4-year PhD program.

We work strategically and in close collaboration with the Brighton and Sussex Medical School on many of these research enterprises. In addition, the School has extensive and diverse links in the area of mental health with the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, including numerous research collaborations and clinical trials, as well as a portfolio of professional postgraduate courses.
The School has excellent laboratory facilities to support its research. Specialist facilities include:

- **Sussex Child Research Hub**: The hub comprises ten research rooms, including a child-interaction observation unit with one-way mirror, a room with CCTV for videoing child sessions, two rooms for experimental infant techniques with coding facilities, and a developmental psychophysics and eye-tracking room. The suite also includes multiple waiting and play areas appropriate for infants, toddlers and older children, and tea/coffee facilities for visiting parents.

- **Behavioural Neuroscience laboratories**: sole use of a microscopy and histological suite and two laboratories dedicated to electrophysiological studies in brain slices; shared use of molecular biology laboratories, all of which have seen significant recent investment. We are a major user of the University’s animal unit, which comprises breeding, holding and experimental facilities for rodents and includes a surgery equipped with digital stereotaxic equipment for both rats and mice. The behavioural laboratories are equipped for sophisticated operant and observational studies with rats and mice.

- **Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre**: CISC is a research facility that houses 3T and 1.5T MRI Siemens scanners and a PET/CT scanner. CISC is staffed by a full complement of radiographers with on-site medical cover and capacity for experimental medical investigations. Structural, diffusion, neurochemical and functional MRI is supported by ancillary equipment that includes world-leading capacity for integrating functional MRI with multi-axis physiological and neurophysiological measurements. It is also a centre for scanning patients enrolled into Phase II and III interventional treatment trials for neurodegenerative and neuro-inflammatory disorders and, through clinical scanning of patients from memory clinics across Sussex, is building the UK’s largest high-quality neuroimaging research dataset of patients at the onset of dementia.

- **Human Psychopharmacology laboratory**: two medical rooms, a wet lab, 12 specialised testing cubicles, Eyelink eye-trackers, and a fully equipped kitchen for the preparation of food for research on human ingestion.

- **Human Psychophysiology and Psychoacoustic laboratories (129 m2)**: six cubicles, two acoustic booths and a reception area. Equipment includes both Neuroscan and EGI rigs for EEG/ERP, a Magstim TMS rig, and three Eyelink II eye-trackers.

- **Vision laboratories**: A suite of six rooms – of which some are designed to exclude all natural light – include specialist equipment for presenting visual stimuli.

- In addition to these dedicated facilities, Psychology also has 85m² of new general-facility, bookable lab space, including 11 test cubicles for faculty and student research projects and other research, a meeting-room, waiting area and kitchen facility.
Sustainability in the School of Psychology

We are committed to sustainability, and work proactively to support university efforts to become one of the greenest universities in the UK, following the launch of the Sussex Sustainability Strategy in summer 2021.

We are embedding sustainability in all our School operations: from teaching provision on environmental psychology and greening our research activity, to the environmental impact of our buildings and facilities and in our working practices, policies and procedures. This is facilitated by the School's Faculty Green Officer, working together with academic and professional services colleagues and students across the School.

For more on our School sustainability commitments, see our website.
3. **Job Descriptions and Person Specifications**

**Job Title:** Senior Lecturer/Reader in Psychology  
**Grade:** Grade 9 (Research & Education focussed)  
**School:** School of Psychology  
**Responsible to:** Head of School  
**Direct reports:** n/a  
**Key contacts:** Students, other members of Faculty within the School and University, School Officers, academics in the field in other institutions.

**Role description:** Senior Lecturer is a senior career-grade teaching and research position. You will be expected to show academic leadership in both teaching and research, and to support the management and strategic planning processes of the School and the University.

Note that candidates appointed with the title of Reader will be expected to have achieved an exceptional level in research, with a sustained and independent research reputation that is acknowledged nationally and internationally.

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**PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES**

1. To provide academic leadership in the design and delivery of high-quality teaching programmes.

2. To engage in high-quality research activity resulting in high-quality publications to be submitted to the REF at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence; to lead research projects or research initiatives in the School; to secure research funding and third-stream income; and to contribute to the School’s research strategy.

3. To support the management activities of the School and University, and undertake a key role in School or University working groups or committees, as required.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Teaching & Student Support

Lead the innovative design, development and delivery of a range of programmes of study at various levels.

Ensure that course design and delivery comply with the University quality standard and regulations, and take responsibility for the quality of programme units.

Regularly review and update course content and teaching materials, ensuring that they remain up-to-date and relevant, incorporating advances in the subject area and utilising appropriate technology, and ensuring inclusivity for diverse groups of students.

Set, mark, and assess coursework and examinations; select appropriate assessment instruments and assessment criteria; and provide constructive and comprehensive feedback to students.

Actively maintain an understanding of appropriate pedagogy in the subject area.

Provide academic leadership to those working within programme areas, e.g. as a course leader.

Supervise taught postgraduate students, providing advice on study skills.

Undertake and complete administrative duties required in the professional delivery of teaching.

Undertake academic advising duties, and provide first-line support for sensitive issues, referring on as appropriate to services providing further assistance.

Adopt an approachable and accessible attitude towards students, offering office hours, informal advice etc.

2. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

Contribute to the development of School research strategies and themes.

Identify and develop research objectives, and proposals for own or joint research.

Carry out independent research and act as a Principal Investigator or project leader on major research projects. This may involve leading and line-managing the staff including their recruitment, probation, mentoring, performance review and staff development; managing the budget, and taking responsibility for the delivery of the programme.

Define research objectives and questions, review and synthesise the outcomes of research studies, and develop ideas for application of research outcomes.
Develop proposals for major research projects which will make a significant impact, and lead to an increase in knowledge or understanding or the development of new explanations, insights, concepts or processes.

Produce high-quality research outputs that have significant impact in the field, for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and make a significant contribution to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

Make presentations at national or international conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing, and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement.

Develop and maintain an independent research reputation by, for example, serving on peer review committees, and acting as a referee for journal articles and research grant applications.

Contribute to the internal management of the REF assessment exercise.

Provide academic leadership to those working within relevant research areas.

Play an influential role in identifying sources of funding and secure and/or contribute to the process of securing bids.

Play a leading role in identifying and securing opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy.

Actively build internal and external contacts, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.

Develop links with external contacts such as other educational bodies, businesses, the public sector, and professional bodies to foster collaboration and potentially generate a source of income.

Play a role in a relevant national professional body or recognised events.

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

Conduct risk assessments and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

3. Contribution to School & University

Attend and contribute to School meetings.

Demonstrate an understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion, and how these principles can be applied in a higher education setting.
Contribute to the overall management of the School in areas such as budget management and business planning, as required.

Contribute to School-level strategic planning, and University-level strategic planning processes if required.

Engage in activities beyond day-to-day teaching duties, for example Admissions Days.

Chair and/or play a key role in School or University working groups or committees, as required.

Undertake an administrative or organisational role within the School e.g. Library Representative, Year Tutor, Exam Board Chair, or personal/academic tutoring.

Advise and provide support to less experienced colleagues, and conduct Performance and Development Reviews, as required.

Undertake additional administrative duties, as required by the Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

- Teaching: Developing and delivering teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels within the School of Psychology at a level appropriate to their grade. In particular, the postholder will be expected to be play a key role in our teaching of modules in clinical psychology.

- Attend and contribute to School teaching- and research-related meetings, including pedagogically-focused and research-related professional development

- Administration: Develop and oversee training of Doctoral Tutors (PhD students) in teaching delivery, marking and feedback. Provide mentorship and support to junior colleagues working across a range of topics and methodologies.

- Student experience: Provide a significant contribution to the School’s academic advising strategy for supporting the student experience.

- Research: Contribute to the research profile of the School, complementing and building on strengths in clinical psychology and mental health through high quality research outputs, knowledge exchange and impact activities, and income generation.

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

- Evidence of novel or innovative approaches to teaching supervision or assessment, including appropriate uses of technology.

- Sustained high-quality teaching across both undergraduate and postgraduate portfolios, as evidenced by surveys, questionnaires and peer review.

- Evidence of the integration of research, scholarship and professional practice with teaching activities.

- Regular published output of original research, with a significant proportion at international level (refereed journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text books).

- Responsible for leading and managing a major research group.

- Sustained success in obtaining competitively awarded research and knowledge exchange grants and contracts, with evidence of leadership in securing such awards (for example, as Principal Investigator).

- A successful track record of completed postgraduate research supervision at MPhil and PhD level.

- Significant involvement in knowledge exchange in conjunction with partner organisations in industry, commerce, government or NGOs. This could be in the form of externally funded research and/or consultancy.

- Evidence of external profile, such as membership of professional body, editorial board or similar.

- Successful prosecution of a major task which facilitates School or organisational unit performance or business.

- Evidence of a capacity to contribute creatively and constructively to the management of School business.

- Evidence of successful management of more junior and/or support staff where such opportunities exist.

- Responsible and effective involvement in the broader arena of the School and/or University including, where appropriate, a role providing support, pastoral care and guidance to students or colleagues.
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. Excellent interpersonal skills, with the proven ability to engage with students using a variety of different methods.

3. Significant experience of high-quality teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

4. Experience of successful curriculum design or re-design.

5. Ability to lead and manage a major research programme.

6. Track record of significant and high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

7. Successful track record of generating research and knowledge exchange income, and the translation of research results into practice.

8. Significant experience of supervising postgraduate students.

9. An emerging international reputation in the field of study.

10. Evidence of proactive contribution to School and/or University.

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

12. Leadership and people management skills.

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

14. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

15. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

16. A willingness to participate in support activities beyond normal teaching duties.

17. Excellent IT skills, with the ability to produce high-quality learning support materials.
ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Sustained track record, at a level appropriate to the grade, of internationally excellent research in clinical psychology and/or mental health.

2. Substantial track record of teaching in areas of clinical psychology and/or mental health at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level, at a level appropriate to the grade, including classroom and/or laboratory teaching.

3. A broad intellectual outlook, evidenced by the scope and diversity of research outputs, extensivity of collaborations, breadth of teaching, or other relevant activities.

4. A collegial and collaborative approach to academic life, evidenced by instances of organisational citizenship, services to the field, or other relevant activities.

5. Evidence of a strong enthusiasm to provide mentorship, advice, and support to junior colleagues working across diverse topics and methodologies.

6. Evidence of an active commitment to making teaching and/or research in psychology more inclusive, representative, and societally relevant.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. A practitioner qualification in clinical psychology or mental health.

2. A recognised higher education teaching qualification.

3. Experience of successful interdisciplinary research collaborations.

4. A track record of successful impact, knowledge exchange, and/or engagement activities with policymakers, practitioners, and non-academic organisations.

5. Experience of teaching on the topic of clinical psychology and/or mental health.

6. Advanced knowledge of and experience of using qualitative methods or quantitative methods.