1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow
School/department: Psychology
Hours: Full time or part time hours considered up to 1FTE
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: fixed term until January 2025
Reference: 6889
Salary: starting at £34,304 to £40,927 per annum, pro rata if part time
Placed on: 11 November 2021
Closing date: 7 December 2021 Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: to be confirmed
Expected start date: 1 February 2022

Job advert

- We are seeking applications from a highly motivated post-doctoral research scientist to join an exciting 3-year programme of research on a Medical Research Council grant examining both cognitive and physiological processes in generalised anxiety disorder.

- The grant is led by Dr Fran Meeten (profile here: https://profiles.sussex.ac.uk/p112714-frances-meeten) and work will take place at the University of Sussex. Post-holders will also liaise with other members of the research team, namely Dr Colette Hirsch (King’s College London) and Dr Cristina Ottaviani (Sapienza, University of Rome).

- The post-holder will support Dr Meeten in the day-to-day running of the grant. The grant will employ heart rate variability biofeedback techniques and interpretation bias training techniques with participants with high levels of worry (Study 1) and a diagnosis of generalised anxiety disorder (Study 2 & 3).

- The post provides an exciting opportunity to undertake research that develops our understanding of the role of both physical (heart rate variability) and cognitive (executive functioning and cognitive bias) processes in the maintenance of generalised anxiety disorder.

- The post-holder should have a background in psychology and experience of collecting and analysing psychophysiological data is desirable, but not essential and training will be provided. The post-holder will also develop skills in using gold-standard diagnostic and clinical ratings.
The post-holder will be primarily responsible for participant recruitment, data collection and primary analysis. The post-holder will also support all other stages of the research process from the pre-registration of studies and development of research protocols/ethical approvals, through to the preparation of research papers and presentations.

The post would be of interest to someone wishing to conduct research in the field of applied mental health research. The post-holder would need to have excellent communication and organisational skills, be able to work as part of a busy team and be able to keep to project deadlines.

Please contact Dr Fran Meeten: frances.meeten@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 https://www.sussex.ac.uk/schools/psychology/

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow

Department: Psychology

Section/Unit/School: Psychology

Location: University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9Qh

Grade: 7

Responsible to: Dr Fran Meeten, Clinical Lecturer in Psychology

Responsible for: N/A
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.

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. Person Specification

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
- Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
- Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
- Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
- Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
- Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
- Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

- Experience of research in the area of psychology and/or psychophysiology.
- Interest in research relating to anxiety and mental health.
- Ability to discuss sensitive topics with research participants
- Experience of designing and developing experiments or research studies.
- Ability to adhere to research protocols ensuring data confidentiality.
- Experience of recruiting participants to research studies.
- Good working knowledge of statistical packages such as R or SPSS/STATA.
- Ability to work to deadlines imposed by the larger remit of the project.

DESIREABLE ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

- Experience of acquisition and analysis of psychophysiology data.
- Research experience in the field of anxiety.
- Ability to prepare ethical governance applications.
- Training or experience in conducting the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM5.
- Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals.