

1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Technician

School/department: School of Psychology

Hours: full time considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE.

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

Contract: fixed term until 21 February 2024.

Reference: 21245

Salary: starting at £24,533 to £27,979 per annum, pro rata if part-time.

Placed on: 17 July 2023

Closing date: 07 August 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected interview date: To be confirmed.

Expected start date: 01 September 2023

A MRC-funded Research Technician position is available in the Koya laboratory at The School of Psychology at the University of Sussex. The lab investigates the neural mechanisms of cue-evoked appetitive behaviours in motivation and reward circuits.

We are looking for a person who will provide dedicated research technical support to our team. The qualified candidate will conduct activities such as:

- performing behavioural and immunohistochemistry experiments related to appetitive learning in mice
- transgenic mice colony management
- the development and optimisation of behavioural neuroscience research tools

Qualified candidates should ideally have an honours degree in neuroscience (or related life sciences discipline). Excellent communication and organisational skills, ability to work collaboratively, while complying with both University and Legislative requirements are essential. Previous experience in performing the above-mentioned activities would be advantageous.

Please contact Eisuke Koya (e.koya@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.

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology/>

3. Job Description

Job Title:	Research Technician in Behavioural Neuroscience
School:	Psychology
Location:	CRPC and BRF buildings, University of Sussex campus
Grade:	Grade 4
Responsible to:	Dr Eisuke Koya, Reader in Psychology

Purpose of the post:

The provision of an effective and efficient technical service within the University for staff and students. Working in one or more laboratories, on one or more projects, under the direction of management. Providing additional support to teaching labs if required.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with the provision of an effective and efficient technical service for staff and / or students.
- Responsible for adhering to safe working practices in line with relevant local and legal requirements.
- Carry out basic risk or CoSHH assessments as required under the direction of senior technician or academic staff.
- The preparation of specialist (i.e. not generally commercially available) materials, compounds and solutions and/or the setting up and construction of apparatus involving modification/manufacture of apparatus using various techniques under the direction of senior technical or academic staff
- Operation and basic maintenance, adjustment and repair of specialist apparatus, equipment and instruments within the laboratories under the direction of senior technicians or academic staff
- Prepare and carry out experiments, and collate results for interpretation
- Maintain adequate laboratory records of methods, sample details and results within specific research project(s).

- Assist in the design (i.e. the methods of planning) of research experiments and in particular equipment / apparatus as directed by a supervisor or member of academic staff.
- Providing general assistance to staff and students in the operation of laboratory apparatus / equipment, where appropriate.
- Assist with the planning and organisation of resources for the running of the laboratories, to include assistance with the ordering of apparatus, and materials ensuring that adequate stock levels are maintained within policies laid down
- Maintain the required level of tidiness and ensure that equipment is stored correctly and securely as directed by senior technician or academic staff
- Attend laboratory or other meetings where appropriate. Liaise and communicate with other staff/technical groups and workshops across campus to share knowledge.
- Instruct, train and provide guidance to other technical staff and students in the techniques and operation of particular equipment / apparatus as directed by the supervisor or the Principle Investigator
- Undertake development activities where necessary in order to keep knowledge and skills up to date and relevant to subject specialism.
- Apply working knowledge of theory and practice, and share this with others as appropriate
- Handle confidential information appropriately.
- Carry out any other reasonable request of management.

Project specific duties:

This job description is not exhaustive but is a guide to the main functions and responsibilities of the post. It is subject to constant review in the light of changes and development of the project. The post holder may be asked to undertake such duties as may be properly delegated following discussion and consultation.

The post holder will be expected to work independently although supervision will be available in the event of a problem.

4. Person Specification

Person Specification for the post of: Research Technician

SKILLS / ABILITIES

	Essential	Desirable
Proven ability to work independently and use initiative where appropriate.	x	

Demonstrable IT skills in Word, Excel, SPSS, email and internet.	x	
Competent in using and ability to rapidly learn how to use specialist lab equipment.	x	
Numerate & literate with good oral and written English communication skills.	x	
Good organisational skills with an ability to prioritize to meet set deadlines.	x	
Behavioural testing and surgical skills in rodents, ability to use Med-PCIV software		x

KNOWLEDGE

	Essential	Desirable
Working knowledge of Health and Safety e.g. conducting risk assessments, as it pertains to the environment.	x	
Significant knowledge of brain mechanisms of learning and memory, immunohistochemistry, microscopy and imaging		x
The technician is required to have sufficient knowledge and/or expertise to work on day to day issues in own area without direct or continuous reference to others.	x	

EXPERIENCE

	Essential	Desirable
Possession of a breadth and/or depth of experience showing full working knowledge and proficiency of own area of expertise and the ability to discharge the role effectively and efficiently.	x	
Experience with lab management e.g ordering consumables and equipment, stock control, budget monitoring.	x	
Proven experience of working in a neuroscience/molecular biology/animal behavioural lab and competently performing the relevant techniques (e.g. immunohistochemistry, PCR, behavioural experiments).	x	

QUALIFICATIONS

	Essential	Desirable
NVQ Level 3 HNC/BTECH or equivalent professional qualification (RSCiTec) or experience in working in a	x	

scientific laboratory		
NVQ Level 4 degree or equivalent qualification or experience working in scientific laboratory		x
Honours degree in neuroscience or related field		x

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND CIRCUMSTANCES

Essential

Desirable

	Essential	Desirable
Normally expected to have a Degree or an equivalent qualification or experience in an appropriate field.	x	
Willing to act as a point of reference to others and demonstrate continuous specialist development, acquiring and refining skills and expertise in new or related areas.	x	
Dependable and reliable.	x	
Willingness to coach and instruct other team members.	x	
Flexibility to work outside normal hours (e.g. weekends) if required for conducting behavioural experiments, monitoring rodent health, etc.	x	
Friendly and approachable.	x	
Willingness to supervise, work as part of, and contribute to, a team.	x	
Willingness to learn about managing transgenic mouse colonies, rodent behavioural tasks	x	