



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

### Research Fellow in Behavioural Epigenetics, Faculty of Biological Sciences



**Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 – £38,833 p.a.)** Due to funding limitations an appointment cannot be made above £34,520 p.a.

**Reference: FBSBY1080**

**Closing date: 21 December 2017**

**Fixed-term for 12 months (external funding)**

# Research Fellow in Behavioural Epigenetics

## School of Biology

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in Behavioural/ Evolutionary biology, including next-generation sequencing analysis, and an interest in epigenetics? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?**

We are seeking a highly motivated bioinformatics-based research fellow to investigate the role of the epigenetic reprogramming in co-ordinating behavioural responses to fine-scale environmental fluctuations. This project addresses a fundamental gap in our knowledge of how environmental change affects animal behaviour. *Drosophila melanogaster* males respond to cues of sperm competition from their social environment by changing their mating behaviour. In this project we have used chemical inhibitors and RNAi to establish which epigenetic modifications mediate this sperm competition response. We are currently performing ChIP-seq to determine which genes are affected.

Your main responsibility will be to analyse ChIP-seq data, use existing datasets to put these into a wider context and take a lead role in writing arising papers, you may also be involved in molecular and/or behavioural assays to verify these data. The work is in collaboration with a PDRA mainly working on the wet lab assays, and it is hoped that you will work closely to support each other's activities and share skills. This Leverhulme Trust funded project is based in Dr Amanda Bretman's research group at the University of Leeds and in collaboration with Dr Elizabeth Duncan.

You will have a PhD (or close to completion) in animal behaviour, molecular genetics, epigenetics, bioinformatics or a closely allied discipline, experience in analysing next-generation sequencing data using command line/Linux based programs, and a background in using molecular techniques.

## What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with Dr Amanda Bretman and Dr Elizabeth Duncan;



- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in behavioural epigenetics with an aim to extend the Bretman group research portfolio;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Contributing to the supervision of junior researchers and PhD students and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow, you will have:

- A PhD (or close to completion) in animal behaviour, molecular genetics, epigenetics, bioinformatics or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in analysing next-generation sequencing data using command line/Linux based programs;
- A background in using molecular techniques;
- Strong analytical skills, with the ability to work accurately and carefully, designing, executing and writing up research independently;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- The ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Strong initiative and a pro-active approach, with excellent organisational, planning and self-management skills, including the ability to prioritise workloads to meet deadlines/demand and deliver high quality under pressure;





- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience in ChIP-seq analysis, behavioural genetics, Drosophila biology;
- Practical experience working with insects in a laboratory setting;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised [closing date](#).

Your application should include:

- A supporting statement providing evidence to support each requirement listed on the 'What will you bring to the role' section of the Candidate Brief (no more than two sides of A4, minimum font size 11);
- An academic curriculum vitae, including a list of your publications.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**[Dr Amanda Bretman](#)**, Lecturer in Animal Biology

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 7214

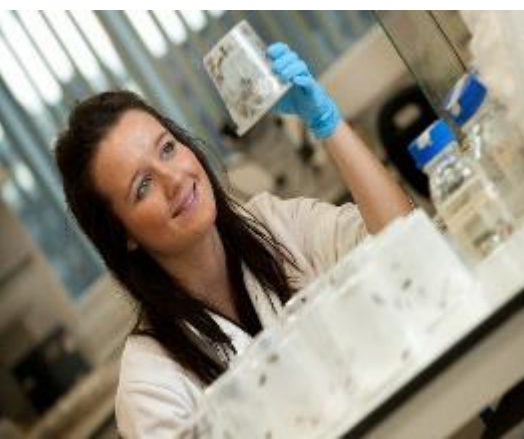
Email: [a.j.bretman@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.j.bretman@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biology](#)

### Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.



### **A diverse workforce**

The University of Leeds and the Faculty of Biological Sciences are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies. The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN (the national body that promotes gender equality in higher education), and the Faculty of Biological Sciences gained a Bronze award in 2014 and submitted an application for a Silver award in April 2017. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all staff, and are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees. Our [Athena SWAN webpage](#) provides more information.

### **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

