



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Neuroscience, School of Biomedical Sciences,
Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)

Due to funding limitations it is unlikely an appointment will be made above £35,845.

Reference: FBDBM1146

Available on a fixed-term basis for 3 years. Start date negotiable.

Research Fellow in Neuroscience School of Biomedical Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in neuroscience? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

Our [lab](#) is based in the vibrant and beautiful city of Leeds situated on the edge of the Yorkshire dales national park. We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated postdoctoral fellow to work on an MRC funded project exploring how the neural circuitry of the olfactory bulb is regulated by metabolism and how this leads to altered olfactory perception and feeding behaviour. This project will take advantage of genetically encoded Ca indicators, 2-photon imaging and electrophysiology to identify the molecular, cellular and circuit level changes occurring in the olfactory bulb during satiety. Viral knockdown of identified targets will then determine how these molecules/cells contribute to olfactory perception and feeding behaviour. You will be joining a well resourced and collegiate lab to undertake this exciting project and will be part of the broad neuroscience community at Leeds www.neural.leeds.ac.uk.

You should have a PhD (or be close to completion) in Neuroscience or a closely allied discipline with a background in neuroscience or physiology with a commitment to establishing a career in neuroscience. You will also have demonstrated competence in either patch-clamp recordings from brain tissue and/or 2-photon imaging.

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 was awarded a Silver award in 2020. 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.



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 Jamie Johnston](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in Sensory Neuroscience with an aim to extend the [Johnston lab](#) 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;
- This project requires *in vivo* mouse work.

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 Neuroscience or a closely allied discipline;
- A background in neuroscience or physiology with a commitment to establishing a career in neuroscience;
- Demonstrated competence in neurophysiological techniques either:
 - Patch-clamp recordings from brain tissue, or
 - 2-photon imaging *in vivo* or *in vitro*
- Basic surgical techniques;
- Experience working with rodents;
- Some experience in programming with Python, C++, matlab or similar;



- 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 with mouse behaviour;
- Experience with viral injections into the brain;
- 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 Jamie Johnston](#), University Academic Fellow

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 0105

Email: j.johnston@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

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

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#).

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.

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.

Appointment to this post will be subject to appropriate security checks being carried out with your permission by a third party company

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post requires a standard criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

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.

