



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Neuroscience, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£39,105 - £46,485p.a.). Please note that due to funding limitations it is unlikely an appointment will be made above £42,632.

Reference: FBSBM1213

Available on a fixed-term basis for 3 years (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based *on the university campus*. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

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 UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We invite applications from a driven and enthusiastic post-doctoral researcher to join a BBSRC-funded collaborative project in the [Johnston](#) and [Filippi](#) labs, within the School of Biomedical Sciences and the [Neur@Leeds Research Group](#). The successful candidate will develop an exciting project exploring the regulatory influence of metabolic signals on a critical neuromodulatory system: the basal forebrain cholinergic nuclei (BFCN). Using electrophysiology and/or 2-photon imaging, the researcher will dissect the cellular and molecular mechanisms that underpin metabolic control over this neuromodulatory hub. Furthermore, through targeted viral-mediated receptor knockdowns, they will elucidate how metabolic sensing in the BFCN impacts cognitive processes including attention and learning as well as overall metabolic function.

What we offer in return

- 26 days holiday plus approx. 16 Bank Holidays/days that the University is closed by custom (including Christmas) – That's 42 days a year!
- Generous pension scheme plus life assurance– the University contributes 14.5% of salary
- Health and Wellbeing: Discounted staff membership options at The Edge, our state-of-the-art Campus gym, with a pool, sauna, climbing wall, cycle circuit, and sports halls.
- Personal Development: Access to courses run by our Organisational Development & Professional Learning team.
- Access to on-site childcare, shopping discounts and travel schemes are also available.

And much more!

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.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with Dr Jamie Johnston, Dr Beatrice Filippi and Dr Steve Clapcote;
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in Neuroscience with an aim to extend the Johnston and Filippi lab research portfolios;
- 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 post involves working with animals

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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A PhD (or close to completion) in Neuroscience or a closely allied discipline;
- Expertise in:
 - Electrophysiological techniques to investigate voltage-gated channel and/or synaptic activity, e.g. whole-cell patch clamp, V-clamp, I-clamp



- Preparing acute brain slices
- Experience with:
 - Stereotactic injections or surgical techniques
 - Behavioural assays
- The ability to design, execute and write 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;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development

Desirable

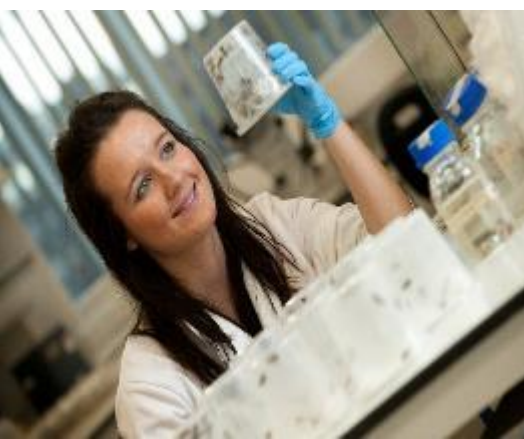
- Experience with:
 - Python or other programming language
 - Use of microcontrollers or open source hardware
 - RNAscope or other histology techniques, e.g. Immunohistochemistry
 - Ca²⁺ imaging
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research.
- Experience of working under a UK Home Office licence;

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](#)

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](#)

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds and from across the world. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).



Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen, this may be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information, please visit [the Government's Skilled Worker visa page](#).

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit [the Government's page, Apply for the Global Talent visa](#).

Security checks

This post may 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 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 subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

