Sainsbury Wellcome Centre

Job Description



Research Fellow
Department: Sainsbury Wellcome Centre
Grade: 7
Salary: £47,186 to £55,099 per annum inclusive of London Allowance
Hours: 36.5 per week (full-time, 1.00 FTE)
Available until:31 October 2030

The Role

The post is for studying the neural circuit mechanism of planning and decision making in the brain.

You will design and implement independent research projects, and be involved in a range of activities both independently and in collaboration with others. Activities may include animal behavioral training, recording and/or imaging from identified neural populations, neuronal perturbation, setting up experimental equipment, data analysis, and scientific communication, including writing up manuscripts for publication and grant writing.

Required for the post are research experience in rodent work, behavioural training and experimentation, electrophysiological recordings and use of molecular tools for modifying the activity/plasticity of neural circuits.

Appointment at Grade 7 is dependent upon having been awarded a PhD; if this is not the case, initial appointment will be at Research Assistant Grade 6B (spine points 26 - 29) with payment at Grade 7 being backdated to the date of final submission of the PhD thesis.

Duties and responsibilities

- To design and conduct independent research projects, with input and feedback from the Group Leader.
- Work closely with the Group Leader and other lab members to set up, gather, collect, analyse and model data.
- To contribute to the induction, training, and supervision of staff members, students and visitors to the lab, in order to develop their skills and/or to achieve collaborative scientific goals.
- Write and contribute to the preparation of scientific manuscripts, reports, grants, presentations and records of experimental plans and results.
- Communicate lab results within divisional meetings to keep team members and other colleagues informed of developments and progress of the project.
- Maintain lab equipment, lab supplies and databases to ensure functions at the correct levels and that all work is carried out in accordance with statutory and UCL regulations as appropriate.
- Maintain the lab cleanliness and organisation of the laboratory space, including monitoring and maintaining levels of consumables within the laboratory and ensuring adequate stock control of

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reagents; organising servicing and maintenance of laboratory equipment.

- Set-up, calibrate and repair behavioural equipment to ensure it functions at the correct levels.

- Adhere to good laboratory practice at all times and observe all required health and safety procedures.

- Write and update laboratory SOPs and risk assessments and record these appropriately.

- Keep up to date with current ethical and legal requirements in relation to the use of animal models in research.

- Keep up to date with current required Data Protection and Security requirements.

General

- Carry out any other duties within the scope spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager.

- Actively participate in UCL networks, meetings and committees relevant to the role, as required.

- All staff are expected to act professionally, co-operatively and flexibly in line with the post.

- UCL's Sustainability policies and objectives, attend management meetings and undertake such training and development as may be required for the post

- The post holder, like all academic, research and teaching staff, is expected to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to excellence in line with the Academic Career Framework

- Meet UCL's expectations set out in UCL's Core Behaviours Framework

- The above description is not exhaustive, and the post-holder will be required to undertake any other duties as may reasonably be requested within the scope, spirit, and purpose of the post.

Person Specification

Essential Criteria	Assessment method
Qualifications, experience and knowledge	
Hold a PhD in neuroscience or a related field or have submitted your thesis before commencing in post.	Application
Expertise in rodent handling and behavioural training	Application/Interview
Experience in rodent stereotaxic surgery and virus delivery into the brain	Application/Interview
Expertise in recording neural activity in behaving rodents	Application/Interview
Advanced computer programming and analysis of neural and behavioural data (Python, R or MATLAB)	Application/Interview
Experience of using molecular tools to manipulate neural activity/plasticity	Application/Interview
Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects and research income generation	Application/Interview
Skills and abilities	
Strong written and oral communication skills, along with good presentation skills.	Application/Interview
Excellent analytical skills and understanding of statistics.	Application/Interview
Able to prioritise, manage your own time, and multi-task and integrate the demands of a range of different activities and deadlines in parallel.	Application/Interview
Works ethically, legally and with integrity.	Application/Interview
Accountable, reliable and resourceful.	Application/Interview
Other requirements	
An understanding and appreciation of the mission and research environment of the SWC, and a commitment to the establishment of the SWC as a world-leading research centre.	Application/Interview

Desirable Criteria	
Experience in molecular biology and histology	Application
Experience in microscopy/imaging	Application

Apply

To apply for this position visit:
ucl.ac.uk/work-at-ucl/search-ucl-jobs

Please complete the online application form and use the supporting statement section to outline your interest in joining SWC and how you meet the essential and desirable criteria for the role.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please email: swc.hr@ucl.ac.uk

For informal enquiries about the role please email: t.mrsic-flogel@ucl.ac.uk

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application.

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Annual leave
Annual leave is 27 working days for a full-time member of staff + 6 UCL closure days in addition to 8 Bank Holidays.

Pension
Post-holders will be eligible to join the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), subject to the Scheme's rules and eligibility conditions.

Hours of Work
UCL's full time working week is 36.5 hours per week. SWC is willing to consider flexible-working arrangements, subject to discussion and agreement with your line manager.

Other benefits
UCL is a dynamic, global university based in one of the most exciting capital cities in the world. Not only does working at UCL offer the opportunity to work with some of the greatest intellects in the world, it also offers competitive terms, conditions and benefits to its staff.

As part of the UCL community you can access free lunch hour lectures, exhibitions and museums and collections. On campus UCL has the Bloomsbury theatre hosting a range of performances and a series of bars, cafes, and other facilities, which UCL staff can use.

In addition to 41 days annual leave (inclusive of public holidays and closure days) and generous pension schemes, UCL also provides a number of other staff benefits.