Job Description

Research Fellow/Senior Research Fellow

Department: Sainsbury Wellcome Centre
Grade: 7/8
Salary: G7: £42,099 to £50,585 per annum inclusive of London Allowance
G8: £51,474 to £60,521 per annum inclusive of London Allowance
Hours: 36.5 per week (full-time, 1.00 FTE)
Reports to: Group Leaders, Dr C. Ann Duan and Dr Jeffery Erlich

Context

We are looking for two excellent Post-Doctoral Research Fellows to join the Duan and Erlich Labs at the SWC. Our labs aim to understand how neural circuits generate flexible, cognitive behaviors. In particular, we use freely-moving and head-fixed rodent paradigms to study economic decision-making under risk, uncertainty and social influence, and the circuit mechanisms underlying these choices.

Towards this goal, we combine theory-motivated behavioural designs, quantitative estimation of animals' internal states, large-scale cellular-resolution monitoring and manipulation of identified neural circuits during decision tasks, and computational modelling.

The Role

In the role, 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, computational modeling, and scientific communication, including writing up manuscripts for publication and grant writing.

The postholder will have research experience in areas ranging from behavioral experimentation, in vivo electrophysiology and imaging, neural circuit manipulation to computational/theoretical neuroscience. Prior experience with two-photon imaging, high density electrophysiological recordings, or computational modelling of behaviours and/or neural dynamics would be desirable. The Grade 8 postholder will supervise a small team of researchers, students, or laboratory staff, and work in a highly collaborative and multidisciplinary research environment. Strong communication and critical thinking skills, as well as a dedication to teamwork and collaboration, are essential.

This post is funded for two years in the first instance with the possibility of extension subject to successful grant application/renewal.

Duties and responsibilities

- To design and conduct independent research projects, with input and feedback from the Laboratory Head.

- Work closely with the Laboratory Head 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 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

Applicants are to copy and paste the following criteria (which are assessed on the application form) into the "Statement in support of your application" describing underneath each criterion how they meet it, giving examples.

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
Proven track-record of research (e.g. publication record) in an appropriate area. Grade 7: Previous experience of contributing to publications/presentations Grade 8: Strong publication record and familiarity with the existing literature and research in the field	Application
Experience with animal behavioural training and analysis	Application/Interview
Computer programming expertise (MATLAB, Python, C# or SQL)	Application/Interview
Experience with long term planning of experiments and timelines Grade 7: Ability to contribute ideas for new research projects and research income generation Grade 8: Ability to independently plan and manage a research project, including a research budget	Application/Interview
Grade 8 only: Experience of supervising/mentoring a small team of scientist or PhD Students.	Application
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
UCL Ways of working	
Personal Excellence Grade 7: Being able to respond constructively. Grade 8: Responding proactively and appropriately to the needs of colleagues, staff, students and partners)	Application/Interview

Working together *Grade 7: Listening to others and supporting them with compassion.* *Grade 8: Listening closely, and speaking with clarity to all colleagues, staff, students, and partners*	Application/Interview
Achieving our Mission *Grade 7: Using evidence and quality data to support approaches.* *Grade 8: Making timely and data-led decisions*	Application/Interview

Desirable Criteria **Applicants should copy and paste the following desirable criteria into the "Statement in support of your application" under the Desirable criteria section and describe underneath each criterion how they meet it, giving examples.**	
Experience in surgical methods such as stereotaxic injection, electrode/window/fiber implantation etc.	Application
Experience with collecting and/or analyzing in vivo electrophysiology recordings and/or calcium imaging data	Application
Experience with computational modelling of behaviours and/or neural dynamics	Application
Commitment to and knowledge of advancing equality, diversity and inclusion	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 contact: c.duan@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 provides a number of other staff benefits which are linked from the page below:

✓ https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/pay-benefits/staff-benefits

UCL benefits and policies apply equally, whatever the sexual orientation and/or gender identity of employees. Benefits and policies relating to employees partners, includes both different sex and same sex partners.