We are seeking a motivated and creative postdoctoral bioinformatician to join the Branco and Margrie laboratories at the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre (SWC). You will work on the analysis and interpretation of the genome of the fiddler crab Uca tangeri. This species has been developed by our institution as a model system for studying the neural underpinnings of vector-based navigation.

As the genome sequence has recently been completed, you will have the opportunity to publish first-author papers and present your work at international conferences.

This position offers an outstanding opportunity to develop your research skills and contribute to cutting-edge research on the neural mechanisms of navigation in a unique model system.

You will have the opportunity to draw on the experimental resources of multiple labs at SWC and the broader neuroscience community at UCL and beyond.
Duties and responsibilities

**Genome assembly and annotation:**
- Refining and improving the existing genome annotation using state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools and databases.

**Comparative genomics:**
- Performing comparative genomic analyses to identify genes and pathways related to navigation and spatial memory in the fiddler crab and other relevant species.

**Transcriptomics:**
- Analysing RNA-seq data to study gene expression patterns in the fiddler crab brain and other tissues relevant to navigation.

**Phylogenetics and population genomics:**
- Investigating the evolutionary history and population structure of the fiddler crab using phylogenetic and population genomic approaches.

**Tool development:**
- Developing and implementing novel bioinformatics tools and pipelines to support the research objectives of the project.

**General**
- To maintain lab equipment, lab supplies and databases to ensure they function at the correct levels, and to ensure that all work is carries out in accordance with statutory and UCL regulations as appropriate.
- To actively engage with the neuroscience community at SWC and Gatsby specifically, and UCL more broadly, including giving presentations in lab meetings and journal clubs where appropriate.
- To act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group on methods and techniques.
- To manage your own academic research and administrative activities to meet deadlines.
- To contribute to the scientific development of PhD students in the lab.
- To represent the Branco and Margrie research groups in outreach activities involving the wider public.
- To contribute to an open and inclusive lab environment.
- To adhere to good laboratory practice at all times.
- Actively follow and promote all UCL policies including those on Data Protection and Security, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations.
- Actively participate in UCL networks, meetings and committees relevant to the role, as required.
- Follow 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; the post-holder will be required to undertake any other duties as may be reasonably requested within the scope and purpose of the post.
**Person Specification**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essential Criteria</th>
<th>Assessment method</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Qualifications, experience and knowledge</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD in bioinformatics, computational biology or a related field.</td>
<td>Application</td>
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<td>Experience with genome assembly, annotation, and comparative genomics.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td>Familiarity with transcriptomics and gene expression analysis.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td>Knowledge of phylogenetics and population genomics methods and tools.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td>Grade 8 only: Experience of supervising / mentoring a small team of scientists or PhD students.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td><strong>Skills and abilities</strong></td>
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<td>Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write for publication, present research proposals and results, and represent the research group at meetings.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td>Strong programming skills in languages such as Python, R, C++, and Java.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td>Strong data visualisation skills.</td>
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<td>Ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative team.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td><strong>Other requirements</strong></td>
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<td>Works ethically legally and with integrity</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td>Able and willing to work flexibly to meet the needs of the Centre</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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<td>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.</td>
<td>Application/Interview</td>
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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](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.

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Apply

To apply for this position visit: 
[**ucl.ac.uk/work-at-ucl/search-ucl-jobs**](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**](mailto:swc.hr@ucl.ac.uk)

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

Probation
Appointments are subject to receipt of satisfactory references and a probationary period of 9 months.

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.