

## Candidate Brief

# Lecturer in Neuroscience

**Reference:** R180525

**Salary:** £35,211- £48,677 per annum and exceptionally to £54,765 [grade 8 – 9]

**Contract Type:** Continuing

**Basis:** Full time

**Closing Date:** 23.59 hours GMT on Friday 7 December 2018

**Interview Date:** To be confirmed

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# **Job description**

## **Job Purpose:**

To contribute to, develop and enhance the research, scholarship and teaching activities of the School either independently or as part of a team, through professional practice and expertise. In addition, to develop external links with regional, UK and international bodies such as government agencies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, business and industry as appropriate to the subject discipline, School and/or University strategy.

The majority of academic staff will undertake a balance of research and teaching and learning activities. Whilst ability and effectiveness should be demonstrated in all areas, individuals may be more specifically focussed on research, teaching and learning or external engagement. This balance will be discussed and agreed with individuals annually in the PDR meeting in line with operational needs, School and University strategy and with consideration of the individual's career goals and development plans.

## **Main Duties/Responsibilities:**

### **Research**

- ▶ To develop Neuroscience research objectives, projects and proposals for personal/joint research programmes consistent with the School's research priorities and those of the Neuroscience group.
- ▶ To publish research papers in leading international journals.
- ▶ To identify sources of funding, develop and submit funding applications, securing external research funding.
- ▶ Where appropriate to School/University strategy and subject discipline, to participate in and develop external networks.
- ▶ To supervise and manage Neuroscience based research projects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- ▶ To supervise postgraduate students at Masters and doctoral levels. To foster an environment which encourages research among students at postgraduate level.
- ▶ To collaborate in research initiatives with colleagues in and beyond the School as appropriate.

### **In addition, at grade 9**

- ▶ To write up research and publish REF returnable outcomes.

### **Teaching and Learning**

- ▶ To teach Neuroscience to students at different levels including foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students, and to carry out the associated examining processes.
- ▶ To be able to teach Neuroscience in UG practical classes and support final year project students undertaking Neuroscience projects.
- ▶ To contribute to/ be responsible for the design and content of specific areas of teaching and learning within the School's teaching Programmes, with guidance.
- ▶ To provide academic support and advice to foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- ▶ To cooperate with colleagues across disciplines in the continuous review and development of the Neuroscience programme(s) and the curriculum.
- ▶ To cooperate with colleagues in the development and expansion of Aston's Neuroscience offering through MRes and MSc programmes.
- ▶ To use and promote the use of a range of methods and techniques in teaching, learning and assessment including pursuing digital and modern methods of delivery.

- ▶ To engage in supporting and promoting quality assurance measures within the University e.g. by evaluation and development of modules for which the lecturer has responsibility, in terms of content, delivery and assessment as well as reviewing delivered modules, setting and receiving student feedback questionnaires.

**In addition, at grade 9**

- ▶ To be responsible for the design and content of specific areas of teaching and learning within the School's teaching Programmes, with guidance
- ▶ To innovate in teaching, demonstrate continuous professional development and critical reflective practice, translating knowledge into the course of study.

**External Engagement**

- ▶ To contribute to student placement schemes with companies and research institutions both in the UK and overseas.
- ▶ To contribute to plans to demonstrate research impact and secure commercialisation, identifying and pursuing opportunities for translational research where appropriate to role and discipline.
- ▶ To enhance the University's reputation with professional/scholarly bodies e.g. by promoting understanding of Neuroscience.

**In addition, at grade 9**

- ▶ To develop research and development collaborations with industry partners to secure additional direct funding where appropriate to focus and subject discipline

**Citizenship**

- ▶ To carry out specific School roles and functions as may be reasonably required (e.g. Programme Co-ordinator, Personal Tutor, Admissions Tutor), these being equitably distributed across the academic staff.
- ▶ To provide pastoral care and support to students.
- ▶ To take part in and, if required, manage staff seminars, cross-departmental activities and events e.g. Open Days, Sixth Form Conferences etc.
- ▶ To display and promote Aston values through own actions and behaviour.
- ▶ To undertake such other duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

**In addition, at grade 9**

- ▶ To take part in and, on occasion, act as Chair of one or more of the School committees, these responsibilities being equitably distributed across the academic staff.

**Additional responsibilities**

- ▶ Engage in continuous personal and professional development in line with the demands of the role, including undertaking relevant training and development activities to develop themselves and support the development of others.
- ▶ Ensure and promote the personal health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
- ▶ Carry out duties in a way which promotes fairness in all matters and which engenders trust.
- ▶ Promote equality of opportunity and support diversity and inclusion as well as working to support the University's environmental sustainability agenda and practices.

## Person specification

|                                     | Essential   | Method of assessment                         |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Education and qualifications</b> | <p>A good first degree in a relevant science.</p> <p>A doctorate in a relevant academic discipline.</p> <p><b>In addition, at grade 9</b></p> <p>A recognised teaching qualification / membership of the Higher Education Authority at Fellow level, or willingness/ambition to achieve an educational qualification.</p>   | Application form                             |
| <b>Experience</b>                   | <p>Experience of teaching and assessing neuroscience within a degree programme.</p> <p>Experience of using VLE e.g. Blackboard.</p> <p>Experience of initiating and conducting research in an area of neuroscience up to doctoral level.</p> <p>Experience of writing up research for high quality publications.</p> <p>Knowledge of behavioural neuroscience, and/or <i>in vitro</i> electrophysiology, e.g. field, sharp intracellular and patch clamp recording.</p> <p>Experience of assisting in laboratory practical classes for undergraduate neuroscientists.</p> <p><b>In addition, at grade 9</b></p> <p>Evidence of publishing research in high quality journals.</p>  | Application form, interview and presentation |
| <b>Aptitude and skills</b>          | <p>The candidate must be a research-active neuroscientist, with a track record of publication and evidence of ability (or strong potential) to attract external funding.</p> <p>Ability to develop and maintain a research programme and to publish in international journals.</p> <p>Excellent attitude towards scientific collaboration both internally and externally.</p> <p>Ability to provide tutorial and counselling advice to undergraduate and postgraduate students.</p> <p>Excellent communication skills to build external contacts that will support research and teaching activity.</p> <p>Ability to develop own teaching materials and contribute to course and programme development.</p> <p>Ability to harness IT as a research and teaching tool.</p> | Interview and presentation                   |

|  | Essential  | Method of assessment |
|--|--|----------------------|
|  | <p>A willingness to undertake further training as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required.</p> <p>Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities Policy at all times.</p> <p>Ability to attend the University as and when required for scheduled teaching, relevant meetings and student support.</p> <p><b>In addition, at grade 9</b></p> <p>Ability to lead taught modules and programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate students.</p> <p>Evidence of securing research income and of maintaining an ongoing pipeline.</p> |                      |

|                                     | Desirable   | Method of assessment                         |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Education and qualifications</b> | <p>Membership of a relevant professional body.</p> <p>A Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice (PGCPP), or equivalent qualification.</p> | Application form                             |
| <b>Experience</b>                   | <p>Experience of teaching neuroscience at UG level, experience of supervision of PG students.</p>   | Application form, interview and presentation |
| <b>Aptitude and skills</b>          | <p>Preference will be given to candidates with a track-record in behavioural neuroscience and/or epilepsy research.</p>                             | Interview and presentation                   |

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online via our website [www.aston.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.aston.ac.uk/jobs). Applications should be submitted by 23.59pm on the advertised closing date. All applicants must complete an application form, along with your CV.

Any CV sent direct to the Recruitment Team and Recruiting Manager will not be accepted. If you require a manual application form then please contact the Recruitment Team via [recruitment@aston.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk).

## Contact Information

### Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Gavin Woodhall

Job Title: Professor of Neuropharmacology

Tel: 0121 204 3995

Email: [g.L.woodhall@aston.ac.uk](mailto:g.L.woodhall@aston.ac.uk)

### Enquiries about the application process, shortlisting or interviews:

Recruitment Team via [recruitment@aston.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@aston.ac.uk) or 0121 204 4500.

## Additional Information

Visit our website [www.aston.ac.uk/hr](http://www.aston.ac.uk/hr) for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

**Salary Scales:** <http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits/salary-scales/>

**Benefits:** <http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/hr/payroll-pensions-and-benefits/>

**Working in Birmingham:** <http://www.aston.ac.uk/birmingham/city-living/>

**Employment of Ex-Offenders:** Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a person with a criminal record is not required to disclose any spent convictions unless the positions they applying for is listed an exception under the act.

**Eligibility to work in the UK:** Candidates who are not citizens of the United Kingdom, or another EEA member country, should check their eligibility to enter or remain the UK in advance of making any job application via the UKVI website <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>. Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English language standards. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful

**Equal Opportunities:** Aston University promotes equality and diversity in all aspects of its work. We aim to ensure, through our admissions policies for students, and our staff recruitment and selection processes that we encourage applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level.

The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against student or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career.



An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included within the application form. Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes, enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Codes of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.

**Data Protection Act 1998:** Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the DPA and from 25 May 2018 with the GDPR. The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <http://www.aston.ac.uk/data-protection>. Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which will be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.



Full details of our terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available online at [www.aston.ac.uk/hr](http://www.aston.ac.uk/hr)