

# OPPORTUNITY

## Postdoctoral Research Associate

Reference: R230194

Salary: £29,605 to £40,927, per annum. Grade 7/8, depending on experience

Contract Type: Fixed term (12 Months)

Basis: Full Time

# Job Description

## **Job Purpose:**

To contribute to the funded research project work on epilepsy in the PI's, Dr. Felix Chan, laboratory group. In addition, the research associate will be expected and supported to write and/or contribute to grant funding applications to sustain continuous research group funding.

## ***Main Duties and Responsibilities***

### **Research**

- To conduct targeted metabolomic measurements using liquid-chromatography mass-spectrometry (LC-MS) on clinical blood samples from patients with epilepsy.
- To develop and characterize induced-pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) model of disease in the lab, including differentiation into neurons and astrocytes respectively.
- To develop and maintain a database and catalog of clinical blood samples and cell model of disease as part of the research infrastructure of the lab.
- To conduct and setup basic molecular biology, genetics, and biochemical assay for validation work.
- To train in and conduct in vitro electrophysiology work and/or neurophysiology assay.
- To partake in routine lab maintenance work.
- To write up and publish the outcomes of research in good quality publications.
- To present papers, posters, reports at seminars, conferences etc.
- To identify sources of funding, develop and submit funding applications, securing external research funding.

### **Teaching**

- To provide limited additional supervision and technical training to PhD, undergraduate students, and other junior colleagues as required.
- To contribute to a limited amount of teaching in the School where required.

### **External engagement**

- To interface with our external funders, the National Institute of Health (NIH) Developmental Synaptopathies Consortium (DSC) and TSC Alliance, as part of the structure of the funded project.
- To forge relationships with our research stakeholders; as outlined above; and other emerging academic, industrial, and charity partners.
- To partake in Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) activities.

**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>	A PhD in Neuroscience or Biochemistry and Molecular Biology or related subject or near to completion	Application form
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience in either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mammalian tissue culture</li> <li>• Liquid/gas chromatography and/or mass-spectrometry</li> <li>• Biochemical, molecular biology, and genetics technique</li> </ul> <p>Experience of conducting good quality research as evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed journals</p>	Application form and interview
<b>Aptitude and skills</b>	<p>Enthusiasm, passion, and motivation for research</p> <p>A collaborative and collegiate approach to team-working</p> <p>Potential of transition to independence and self-management</p> <p>Potential of developing leadership skills</p> <p>Critical thinking and problem solving</p> <p>Ability to present data in written and graphical communications</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Experience</b>	<p>Experience and knowledge in tuberous sclerosis complex and/or mTOR biology research</p> <p>Experience and knowledge in epilepsy research</p> <p>Experience of induced pluripotent stem cell technique</p>	Application form and interview

	Desirable	Method of assessment
<b>Aptitude and Skills</b>	Track record of teaching and/or mentorship  Project management skills	

\*Where applicants have not been awarded their PHD, they are likely to commence on grade 7.





# Contact Information

## Enquiries about the vacancy:

Name: Dr. Felix Chan

Job Title: Lecturer in Neuroscience

Email: [f.chan2@aston.ac.uk](mailto:f.chan2@aston.ac.uk)

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

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

# Additional Information

Visit our website <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr> for full details of our salary scales and benefits Aston University staff enjoy

**Salary scales:** <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/payroll-and-pensions/salary-scales/index>

**Benefits:** <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/Benefits-and-Rewards/index>

**Working in Birmingham:** <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/birmingham>

**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:

### New immigration system from 1 January 2021

A new immigration system has been introduced for people arriving in the UK from EEA countries with effect from 1 January 2021. In addition to those who have always required a visa, EU citizens who were not resident in the UK before 31 December 2021 will need to get a visa in advance.

You can find more information [here](#)

Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK in advance of making any job application via the [UKVI website](#). Before applying you should ensure that you meet the requirements, including meeting the English Language requirements. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, any application for a work visa would be unsuccessful.

If you require a visa to work in the UK the most common types of visa are:

- Skilled Worker Visa <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>
- Global Talent Visa

If you are a leader or potential leader in one of the following fields you may be eligible to

apply for a Global Talent Visa:

- Academia or Research
- Arts and Culture
- Digital Technology

Please click the following link for further information and to check your eligibility for this visa. <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

**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:** Your personal data will be processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"). The University's Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices, including the Job Applicant Privacy Notice can be found at <https://www2.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 <https://www2.aston.ac.uk/staff-public/hr/policies>

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**Where change  
gets real.**