RESEARCH ASSOCIATE Grade: F Vacancy Ref: A1390R (ION)

Main Duties and Responsibilities
1. Develop novel brain imaging protocols for macaques
2. Scan trained macaques at 6-month intervals
3. Manage collection of data on standard welfare indicators (weight, behaviour, blood and hair samples)
4. Analyse imaging and behavioural data
5. Liaise effectively with animal welfare and neuroscience researchers within and beyond the project team
6. Obtain and hold a Home Office personal license (Module 1-4), and perform all aspects of the work in accordance to the relevant project license guidelines
7. Disseminate results via publications, talks and public engagement.

Research Role Profile
As part of our commitment to career development for research staff, the University has developed 4 levels of research role profiles. These profiles set out firstly the generic competences and responsibilities expected of role holders at each level and secondly the general qualifications and experiences needed for entry at a particular level. It is unlikely that any single member of staff will be applying all these competences at any one time but he or she would be expected to display most of them over a period of time.

Please follow this link to our Research Role Profiles

A 3 year Research Associate position is available to work with Professor Melissa Bateson, Professor Alex Thiele, Dr Candy Rowe and Professor Paul Flecknell (Newcastle University, UK) on a challenging NC3Rs-funded project to develop and explore biomarkers of welfare in monkeys used in neuroscience research. The proposed research combines a range of techniques, including structural and functional brain imaging, to assess markers of change in affective state longitudinally in non-human primates currently used in on-going neuroscience research. The post would suit a neuroscientist interested in the neural mechanisms of emotional processing using neuroimaging either in humans or animal models.

Person Specification

Knowledge (inc. qualifications)

Essential
- A PhD in psychology, psychiatry, neuroscience, or a related field
- Knowledge of neuroimaging methods (MRI)

Desirable
- In possession of Home Office Personal Licence
• Knowledge of biomarkers of negative affective states in humans
• Knowledge of measures of non-human primate welfare

Skills (professional, technical, managerial, practical)

Essential
• Design and execution of MRI studies
• Familiarity with neuroimaging packages (e.g. FSL, SPM)
• Programming skills (e.g. Matlab, C)
• Analysis and interpretation of MRI data
• Excellent oral and written communication skills
• Excellent track record of relevant academic publication

Desirable
• Familiarity with statistical packages (e.g. SPSS)

Experience and Achievements (paid or unpaid)

Essential
• Experience conducting MRI studies
• Experience analysing MRI data
• Experience working effectively as part of a team

Desirable
• Experience training and testing non-human primates

Other

Essential
• Freedom from animal allergies that would preclude working in an animal unit
• Willingness to work with non-human primates involved in neuroscience research
• Collegial attitude and willingness to work in a collaborative working environment
• Willingness to work flexible hours

Desirable
• Ability to regularly lift items, as needed to conduct experiments

For full details about this vacancy and essential information on how to apply, visit our Job Vacancies web page at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies/