Lecturer in Neuroscience
Department of Biology

Closing date: 27 November 2017
Interview date: 15 January 2017
Vacancy reference: 6150
INTRODUCTION

Research and teaching in Neuroscience is a growing area of international excellence and strategic importance at the University of York, underpinned by significant activity across a number of Departments and Centres. These include the Departments of Biology, Psychology and Health Sciences and the Centres for Immunology and Infection, Health Economics, Neuroimaging and the Hull York Medical School (HYMS). The introduction of the Biomedical Sciences Degree in 2014, developed in collaboration between the Departments of Biology, Psychology and HYMS has required an expansion of the teaching capability in the Biomedical area. This position is part of the teaching hiring for the Biomedical Sciences degree.
Main purpose of the role

- To develop research objectives, projects and proposals and carry out individual or collaborative research projects
- To lead on and/or contribute to the production of research outputs and research outcomes.
- To design, develop and deliver teaching across a wide range of modules and/or within a particular programme or subject area
- To undertake effectively a range of administrative and managerial responsibilities

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

Research and Scholarship

- To develop and promote the research activities of the department by developing a personal research plan independently and/or in collaboration with others as part of a larger research team
- To plan, manage and undertake research activities in accordance with a specific project plan, and to manage and guide the work of staff and research students on own specialist area
- To develop innovative research proposals, identify and obtaining external sources of funding
- To publish original research in appropriate journals or other relevant media as appropriate and attend international conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results or for personal development

Teaching and Promotion of Learning

- To develop innovative teaching materials, techniques and module design and take responsibility for the quality of the provision
- To plan, deliver and critically review a range of teaching and assessment activities
- To undertake academic supervision of students (including research students) and act as a research supervisor within own specialist subject area.
- To set and mark practical sessions, supervisions, fieldwork and examinations and provide constructive feedback to students
- To identify areas where current teaching provision is in need of revision or improvement and propose and implement improvements

Management and Administration

- To undertake the duties of a Programme Director and Module Co-ordinator and be responsible for the design, development and management of departmental teaching modules
- To contribute to the recruitment and selection of research and teaching staff
- To contribute to the administration and management of the department
- To advise, supervise and give guidance to other departmental staff as appropriate
- To develop and build internal and external contacts
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>PhD in Neuroscience or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Appropriate academic professional and teaching qualifications or a willingness to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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### Knowledge

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<tr>
<td>Specialist knowledge in subject area</td>
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<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies</td>
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<td>Knowledge of a range of teaching techniques to enthuse and engage students</td>
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<td>Advanced and specialist IT knowledge</td>
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<td>Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals</td>
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### Skills, abilities and competencies

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<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals</td>
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<td>Well-developed analytical skills</td>
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<td>Highly developed oral and written communication skills, including ability to write and/or contribute to publications and/or to disseminate research findings using other appropriate media</td>
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<td>Ability to deliver presentations at conferences or exhibit work at other appropriate events internally and externally</td>
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<td>Ability to extend, transform, and apply knowledge from scholarship</td>
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<td>Ability to design teaching material and deliver either across a range of modules or within a subject area</td>
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<td>Ability to supervise the work of others, for example in research teams or projects or as an MSc PhD or post-doctoral supervisor</td>
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<td>Excellent IT skills</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Experience</th>
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<td>Proven ability to contribute to high quality research which is publicly evidenced</td>
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<td>Experience of taking responsibility for teaching and learning at undergraduate and ideally postgraduate level</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Evidence of dissemination of research findings which may include: the presentation of papers at conferences and workshops; participation in public engagement events to disseminate research; the publishing of chapters in text books; the publishing of papers; articles or reviews in academic journals or elsewhere; the construction of websites</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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### Personal attributes

| Show attention to detail and commitment to high quality | Essential             |
| Display creativity, initiative and judgement in applying appropriate approaches to teaching, learning support and scholarly activities | Essential             |
| Positive attitude to colleagues and students | Essential             |
| Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions | Essential             |
| Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines | Essential             |
| Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills | Essential             |
| Collaborative ethos | Essential             |
| Show commitment to the department/university outside of their chosen field, for example undertaking management and administration duties | Essential             |
The Department of Biology welcomes staff and students from around the world. We celebrate excellence, breadth and diversity across the spectrum of modern biology. Fundamental science research foci include Ecology and Evolution, Infection and Immunity, Microbiology, Plant Biology, Cell and Developmental Biology, Biochemistry and Biophysics, Molecular and Cellular Medicine and Bioinformatics and Mathematical Biology with a growing focus in neuroscience.

Biology at York is consistently highly ranked in league tables and in 2014 is placed 2nd in the UK for teaching excellence in the Guardian University Guide, 3rd in the Sunday Times University Guide and 4th in the Complete University Guide.

We have successfully continued to establish new laboratory space and refurbish existing space. A new £6M teaching wing has been built and we have ambitious future plans to continue the development of our buildings and laboratories.

The Department of Biology comprises of approximately 59 academic staff, 2 independently funded research fellows, 98 research associates, 216 graduate students, 159 support (technical, professional and administrative staff), and 1,007 undergraduates. Several senior positions are funded by charities or industry.

The Bioscience Technology Facility is a unique resource providing a purpose-built facility for our world-class scientists and technologists working across six bioscience research capabilities. Collectively it brings together a unique range of expertise and equipment, and is recognised as a leading example of how to provide research support in the 21st Century. The focus is on six core areas: Bioinformatics, Genomics, Imaging & Cytometry, Molecular Interactions, Protein Production, and Proteomics.

As befits a department of our size, we have an extensive support infrastructure underpinning our teaching and research. This includes teams in operational services; horticultural; supplies and goods services; and teaching laboratory technicians. We provide excellent animal house facilities and mechanical and electronic workshops. We also have in-house specialists in Health & Safety, IT and HR. Expert help is available to assist with external funding proposals for research activities.
THE DEPARTMENT

The quality of our teaching is of equal importance to our research and indeed the success of each feeds upon the other. The Biology Department places great emphasis on the quality of teaching and learning at both undergraduate and graduate levels. We were awarded 24/24 in Subject Review and are ranked highly in recent national Student Surveys and University league tables.

The undergraduate programme in the Biology Department comprises a BSc in Biology with a number of other specialist degrees, including: Genetics; Ecology, Conservation & Environment; Molecular Cell Biology, Biotechnology and Microbiology and others with a year in Industry or Europe as well as a 4 or 5 year integrated Masters. Courses are modular. As with all degree courses in the Department, students take a final year research project over two terms that currently contributes 20% to the degree classification. The Department sets great store by small-group teaching, and all 1st and 2nd year students receive a weekly tutorial in a group of four with a member of staff. In addition to lecturing, running practical classes and taking tutorials, other teaching contributions include supervision of both undergraduate (BSc) and postgraduate (masters) research projects.

Since 2014, the Department has held an Athena Swan Gold award, the first Biology Department in the UK to be recognised with this award, that recognises our commitment to, and achievement in, developing good employment practices that support the career advancement of women working in science, engineering and technology (SET) in academia. In a survey undertaken as part of our 2013 Athena resubmission, more than 90% of academic staff and more than 97% of students regarded the Biology Department as a great place to work for both sexes.

Neuroscience Community in York:

In Biology, we have 7 neuroscientist Principal Investigators: Sangeeta Chawla (circadian rhythm, neuronal transcriptional responses), Chris Elliott (Parkinson’s Disease, monoamine neurotransmitters), Gareth Evans (synaptic plasticity, synaptic protein phosphorylation), Will Brackenbury (voltage-gated calcium channels), Darren Goffin (Rett Syndrome, autism), Miles Whittington (cortical rhythms, sleep) and Sean Sweeney (Frontotemporal Dementia, neuronal responses to oxidative stress). We are a highly collaborative and interactive group. We employ a wide range of techniques (biochemistry, tissue culture, Drosophila, electrophysiology, imaging) and use the imaging and cytometry facilities of the technology facility extensively. We also have strong connections to the Centre for Infection and Immunity (CII) in York (a Biology/HYMS Centre) with ongoing joint projects on neuroinflammation.

Across campus we have an extensive and growing neuroscience community with numerous groups in HYMS and the Psychology department. The neuroscience community meets regularly and cross-departmental collaborative PhD projects and grant applications are encouraged. The York Neuroimaging Centre (YNiC) is part of the Psychology Department and is located in the Science Park between the Heslington East and West Campuses. YNiC was established in 2004 with funding from the Wolfson Foundation and the SRIF initiative. YNiC houses a TMS laboratory alongside MRI and MEG facilities with a GE 3T MRI scanner and a 4D whole-head magnetometer MEG system with 288 channels.

In 2010, an inter-disciplinary initiative between Psychology, Chemistry, Biology, and the Hull York Medical School, secured grants totalling £8m from the Welcome Trust and the Wolfson Foundation to build the York Centre for Hyperpolarisation in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (http://www.york.ac.uk/news-and-events/news/2010/research/hyperpolarisation/). The Centre will bring to application fundamental breakthroughs with the potential to revolutionise brain science by increasing the speed and precision of magnetic resonance imaging.

The Department of Biology operates a set of family-friendly policies and welcomes applications that are made on a part-time and job share basis. We will do our best to accommodate such requests where possible.

Staff working patterns are flexible and a formal flexitime system is also in operation. We provide support and advice for staff taking maternity, paternity, adoption and parental leave, and the University has a nursery and a Child Care voucher scheme.
Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2017 it is the home of more than 17,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. Since opening over fifty years ago, we have become one of the world’s leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

We are consistently recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and one of just six post-war universities which appear in the world top 100 (2013-14) and 15th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2016). The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen’s Anniversary Prizes.

The University is proud of its association with Athena SWAN, holding 12 awards in support of gender equality, representation and success for all, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology and a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we've worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University aims to offer a nurturing and supportive environment as an employer. Flexible working hours, nursery facilities, childcare vouchers, cycle to work scheme, generous holidays and an attractive pension scheme all make the University of York one of the region’s leading employers.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.
THE CITY AND THE REGION

The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York’s bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford’s Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn’t just a great place to visit - it’s also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit www.visityork.org for more information on the city of York.

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain’s best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King’s Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half hours. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
Apply online

- Go to [https://jobs.york.ac.uk](https://jobs.york.ac.uk)
- Find this job using reference 6150
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 27 November 2017.

What will I need?

You will need to upload:

- your CV
- a letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job

You will also need details of 3 referees.

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to sean.sweeney@york.ac.uk or biol-dmthub@york.ac.uk

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835