



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Psychology
Reference:	26/113277
Closing Date:	Monday 11 May 2026
Salary:	£41,519 - £42,756 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 1 June 2026
Duration:	24 Months or until 31 May 2028, whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

To be a highly productive, ambitious and collaborative member of the Animal Behaviour Lab in the School of Psychology, assisting in a Leverhulme Trust funded study designed to explore the evolution of laterality in canids.

The post is a critical role, and as such, successful applicants will have responsibilities in independent research, team work, day-to-day lab management, collaborations and outreach.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research on the evolution of lateralisation (as assessed via paw preferences) in canids. The project will involve working in both the Animal Behaviour Lab (School of Psychology, QUB) and in situ venues including zoos, dog breeders and pet owners' homes. The project will involve periods of considerable travel, both within and outside the UK, for the purpose of data collection. Data collection will involve hands-on work with domestic dogs and observational work with wolves. There will be no hands-on work with wolves.
2. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations of experimental data and the literature using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
3. Produce high quality research outputs consistent with project aims and commensurate with career stage. This will include collaborating and co-authoring with PI and project team (as appropriate) on outputs.
4. In consultation with the project team, promote research milestones and outputs at national and international conferences.
5. Assist key staff in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
6. Carry out occasional educational support, supervision and demonstrating duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
7. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Undergraduate degree in Psychology, Biology or closely related discipline.
2. Have, or about to submit, a PhD in Psychology, Biology or closely related discipline, with a focus on animal behaviour.
3. Recent relevant research experience to include:
 - A proven track record of collecting data on animal behaviour
 - Experience of statistical analysis
 - Evidence of publication record commensurate with stage of career.
4. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
5. Ability to contribute to the School's outreach programme by links with industry, community groups, etc.
6. Ability to work closely with animals.
7. Ability to liaise closely with pet owners, zoo keepers and other members of the public.
8. Ability to carry out data collection, some of which may involve work at weekends or during holiday periods.
9. Ability to travel for up to 2-3 week periods of time for the purposes of data collection, both inside and potentially outside the UK.
10. Ability to travel to conferences for presentation purposes.

11. Ability to demonstrate practical problem-solving skills, independence of thought and initiative.
12. Full valid driving licence.
13. Ability to communicate complex information effectively in oral and written format.
14. Ability to assess and organise resources.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MSc in Psychology, Biology or closely related discipline.
2. Experience of work with dogs, wolves and/or other canids.
3. Experience of research in the field of laterality.
4. Experience of using SPSS.
5. Experience of using online questionnaire platforms, e.g., Qualtrics.
6. Experience of working with a research team.
7. Ability to develop internal and external networks.