



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Cognitive Neuroscience
<b>Organisation Unit:</b>	Queensland Brain Institute
<b>Reference Number:</b>	3017648
<b>Type of Employment:</b>	Full-time, Fixed-term appointment at Research Academic level A for up to three years initially with renewal subject to funding
<b>Classification:</b>	Research Academic Level A
<b>Remuneration:</b>	Gross salary package (2008 rates) from \$70,658.06 to \$75,847.71 per annum. This salary package consists of: Base salary range from \$60,391.50 to \$64,827.10 per annum, plus Employer superannuation of 17% of salary.
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Friday 18 January 2008
<b>Further Information:</b>	Helen Staunton (07) 3346 6404 Email <a href="mailto:h.staunton@uq.edu.au">h.staunton@uq.edu.au</a>

## BACKGROUND

Applications are invited for a *Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, Queensland Brain Institute*, Brisbane, Australia ([www.qbi.uq.edu.au](http://www.qbi.uq.edu.au)). This position is in collaboration with Prof Jason Mattingley and A/Prof Ross Cunnington on a 3-year grant-funded project examining the human "mirror" system and neural processes underlying the perception of actions and gestures.

Projects will use imaging (fMRI, EEG), transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), and behavioural studies/psychophysics to examine the influence of selective attention and conscious perception on neural responses to observed actions, and will examine links between the perception and execution of actions.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will play a leading role in designing, implementing, conducting and writing-up experiments in close collaboration with Prof Mattingley and A/Prof Cunnington. Applicants must have a PhD in psychology, neuroscience or a related area and strong research experience in human cognitive neuroscience. Experience in conducting research using fMRI, EEG, MEG, or TMS methods is essential. Applicants with a record of publication in high-ranking peer-reviewed journals will be particularly favoured.

### **Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory, Queensland Brain Institute**

The Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory is one of leading centres for cognitive neuroscience research in Australia, founded jointly between the Queensland Brain Institute and School of Psychology, University of Queensland in January 2007. We have dedicated facilities for human functional MRI (3 Tesla and 4 Tesla human MRI scanners), EEG (BioSemi and Neuroscan), and TMS, with research focusing on attention, action, and executive functioning in normal populations, as well as in neurological and neuropsychiatric conditions.

The Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) was established as a research institute of the University of Queensland in 2003. The Institute is now operating out of a new \$63 million state-of-the-art facility and houses 24 Principal Investigators with strong international reputations. The QBI is one of the largest

neuroscience institutes in the world dedicated to understanding the mechanisms underlying brain function. Details of the current QBI interdisciplinary research programs can be found at <http://www.qbi.uq.edu.au>.

### **Information for Prospective Staff**

Information about the University of Queensland, living in Brisbane and employment at the University is available at the University's web site. (<http://www.uq.edu.au/>) For a comprehensive guide to family friendly work practices and services visit the University's Equity Office web page at <http://www.uq.edu.au/equity/index.html?page=11661>

### **DUTY STATEMENT**

#### **Primary Purpose of Position**

This position will involve conducting research using functional MRI and EEG methods in human volunteers.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Design and implement experiment paradigms to run in Presentation, E-Prime, or equivalent during fMRI and/or EEG measurement.
- Recruit volunteers, conduct experiments using imaging methods, and process and analyse fMRI and/or EEG imaging data.
- Prepare results for presentation and write research papers for publication.
- Interact with Prof Mattingley and A/Prof Cunnington and other members of the Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory to further understanding of human brain function.
- Attend relevant Group and Institute meetings, and enhance the research profile of the Institute and the broader University.
- Comply with requirements of Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related OH&S responsibilities and procedures developed by the University or Institute.

#### **Reporting Relationships**

The position reports to Associate Professor Ross Cunnington.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

#### **Essential**

- PhD in psychology, neuroscience, or related field.
- Proven background and research experience in human cognitive neuroscience.
- Experience conducting research with fMRI, EEG, MEG, or TMS methods.
- Ability to think independently and creatively, as well as to articulate ideas and to write clearly.

#### **Desirable**

- Experience designing experiments and programming in Presentation, E-Prime or equivalent, as well as basic programming in Matlab, Visual Basic or similar.
- Knowledge of statistical methods, particularly as applied to brain imaging data.
- Ability to assist supervision and training of junior researchers.
- Track record of publication in high-ranking peer-reviewed journals.

#### **Personal Qualities**

- High level communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work both independently and to work co-operatively as part of a team.
- Adaptability and flexibility to problem-solving.
- Enthusiasm for scientific discovery.

## APPLICATION

Applications must consist of the following:

1. Covering Letter. The covering letter should include the vacancy reference number, your contact address and telephone number. It is an opportunity in not more than one page to introduce yourself and highlight the key reasons you should be considered for the role.
2. Resume or Curriculum Vitae. A resume is a brief history of your employment and experience that covers the following areas:
  - Educational qualifications and professional affiliations that detail the full title of the qualification, the year awarded and the title of the institution attended;
  - Employment history in chronological order, starting with current position and specifying dates of employment, title of each position, name of employer, main duties or accountabilities and achievements; and
  - The names and contact details (address, telephone, fax and e-mail) of three referees, including if possible a senior person (preferably your supervisor or the head of your organisational unit) closely associated with your current work.
3. Selection Criteria. A statement addressing how each of the selection criteria have been met is required to assist the Selection Committee determine whether you have the relevant qualifications, knowledge/skills, experience and personal qualities.

An academic curriculum vitae should include research fields and current interests, publications (full list as attachment with three most significant marked with an asterisk), research grants awarded and, if applicable, details of teaching evaluation.

### Applications are to be sent to:

Helen Staunton  
Human Resource Advisor  
Queensland Brain Institute  
The University of Queensland  
Brisbane QLD 4072

Or email: [applications@qbi.uq.edu.au](mailto:applications@qbi.uq.edu.au)

### Please note:

- Applications should be typed;
- Do not send applications that are bound or enclosed in plastic or manilla folders;
- Simply staple the application at the top left hand corner; and
- Retain a copy for your reference because the University does not return copies to applicants.

## SELECTION PROCESS

A Selection Committee will consider all applications and shortlist candidates for interview who appear to meet the selection criteria at the highest levels. They will be invited to attend an interview and the remaining unsuccessful applicants will be notified accordingly.

An invitation to attend an interview provides an opportunity to provide further information to the Selection Committee to substantiate your claims against the selection criteria or demonstrate your capabilities. Please note that for some positions interviews may be conducted by teleconference in the first instance.

The Selection Committee will subsequently seek referee reports, if not sought prior to interview, before making a decision to make an offer of appointment to the preferred candidate. The purpose of referee checks is to obtain, in confidence, factual information about your past work history, as well as opinions regarding the quality of your work, behaviour in the work place and suitability for the position. Referee reports may be sought orally, or for academic staff, in writing by post or e-mail.

Referees should normally include current supervisors or and/or managers. A referee must be able to comment on your work experience, skills and performance with respect to the selection criteria. Referee checks conducted after the interview process can sometimes delay notification of the successful candidate and other interviewees.

If you are the preferred candidate, you will receive a written offer of appointment to the position. Do not take any action, such as resigning from your current position, before you receive a **written offer** of appointment.

**The University of Queensland is an equal opportunity employer.**

Smoking is prohibited in all University buildings.