

## **Post-doctoral position in Evolutionary Neuroethology**

A postdoctoral position is open to join the 'Laboratory of Evolutionary Neuroethology' led by Dr. Jean-Marc LASSANCE within the Unit GIGA-Neuroscience at the campus Sart-Tilman of the University of Liège in Belgium. The GIGA ([https://www.giga.uliege.be/cms/c\\_4113263/en/giga](https://www.giga.uliege.be/cms/c_4113263/en/giga)) is an interdisciplinary biomedical research center offering access to core facilities including animal facilities, imaging, sequencing and viral vector production platforms. GIGA and the University of Liège welcome applicants with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

### **Subject description**

Olfaction – the sense of smell – plays a fundamental role in the life of animals and humans alike. Indeed, the detection of olfactory stimuli is a key determinant of many innate behavioral responses, from aggression to parental care. A central goal of our research is to understand how an animal's innate interpretation of odors drives behavior, how this representation evolves, and how genetic variation modulates the neural architecture of odor information processing in the mammalian olfactory system.

We are seeking to recruit a highly motivated post-doctoral fellow for an interdisciplinary project at the interface between evolutionary biology and neurobiology. The project focuses on performing behavioral experiments in rodents and profiling the sensory responses to stimuli corresponding to various ethological contexts using high-throughput sequencing approaches. The project will be conducted at GIGA, a cross-disciplinary environment which will provide the candidate with ample possibilities to learn new skills and methods ranging from imaging to single-cell sequencing.

### **Work duties**

The main duties involved in this post-doctoral position is to conduct research.

Work duties include:

- Perform behavioral experiments and expose animals to ethologically relevant cues.
- Work in tight collaboration with the GIGA Genomics platform to coordinate the preparation and sequencing of samples.
- Work in collaboration with the GIGA Bioinformatics platform to analyze Next-Generation Sequencing data.
- Actively contribute to a positive and creative working atmosphere in the group.
- Possibility to develop own research questions within the project aims.

### **Qualification requirements**

Appointment to a post-doctoral position requires that the applicant has a PhD, or an international degree deemed equivalent to a PhD, within the subject of the position, at the time for employment decision. The doctoral degree should have been obtained no more than five years before the last date for applications. Extensions are possible under certain circumstances such as childbirth and adoption. Importantly, the candidate should be a situation of international mobility: he/she should not have worked or lived in Belgium for more than 24 months during the 3 years preceding his/her start date.

Additional requirements:

- PhD certificate in a relevant field such as biology, neurobiology, evolutionary biology.
- Very good proficiency in written and oral English.
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work well individually and as part of a team.

### **Assessment criteria and other qualifications**

This is a career development position primarily focused on research. The position is intended as an initial step in a research career, and the assessment of the applicants will primarily be based on their research qualifications and potential as researchers.

Particular emphasis will be placed on research skills within the topic.

For appointments to a post-doctoral position, the following shall form the assessment criteria as merits:

Experience in conducting behavioral experiments with laboratory animals – Experience in molecular biology techniques – Experience in analysis of 'omics' data (i.e. genomics, transcriptomics including single-cell sequencing) and data visualization – Documented ability to develop and carry out high-quality research – Documentation of successful completion of research projects – High intellectual capacity and problem-solving ability – Technical and analytical know-how, organization skills – Enthusiasm, dedication and an ability to work both independently and embedded in a team

Consideration will also be given to good collaborative skills, drive and independence, and how the applicant's experience and skills complement and strengthen ongoing research within the unit, and how they stand to contribute to its future development.

### **Terms of employment**

This is a full-time, fixed-term employment of two years (initial contract for one year renewable). Starting date is **September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022**.

Any questions related to the position should be directed to Jean-Marc Lassance ([jmlassance@uliege.be](mailto:jmlassance@uliege.be)).

### **Instructions on how to apply**

Applications shall be written in English and be compiled into a PDF-file containing:

- Cover-letter describing your motivation, research experience and interests.
- Curriculum Vitae including current and previous appointments, title and data of PhD defense (or equivalent), academic distinctions and expertise, and skills the applicant wishes to be considered.
- Full list of publications.
- Contact information for three (3) professional references.
- Copy of doctoral degree certificate, and other diplomas the applicant wishes to be considered.

These documents should be sent to [jmlassance@uliege.be](mailto:jmlassance@uliege.be) with a subject line containing 'postdoc neuroetho' by **July 21st 2022**. Selected candidates will be contacted for an interview.