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UNIVERSITY OF
ABERDEEN

CHAIR IN PSYCHOLOGY

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

Closing date: 30 October 2022

Interview date: To Be Confirmed

Reference number: PSY051A



**Healthy
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Version: Sep21

INTRODUCTION

Research in the School of Psychology falls broadly into three themes: (1) Perception & Attention, (2) Cognition, and (3) Social Cognition. Although each staff member is assigned to a single theme, there is extensive collaboration and overlap of interests within the School. The School houses state-of-the-art facilities to support world-leading research across these three themes, including extensive eye tracking facilities (both lab-based and mobile), EEG and TMS systems, psychophysics laboratories and motion tracking facilities.

We have a particular research expertise on the perceptual, cognitive and social dimensions of human behaviour, drawing on research across the three themes. We are looking to build on our existing strengths in this domain, with a goal to model mechanisms of human interaction through the application of behavioural science, artificial intelligence and neuroscience techniques. We welcome applicants with expertise that can extend and enhance our research portfolio.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

As part of the continued development and expansion of the School of Psychology, the opportunity has arisen for a suitably qualified individual who can demonstrate an outstanding research profile, as evidenced by publications in leading academic journals and a track record of successful grant applications, commensurate with their stage of career.

The successful candidates are expected to lead the development of research areas, including research, funding applications, and the mentoring of early-career staff, as well as contributing to the development and delivery of teaching and supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

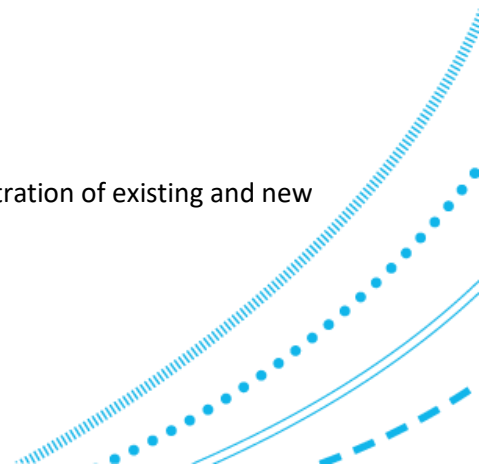
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Research

- To conduct and publish internationally influential research
- To develop and lead a research group and mentor junior colleagues
- To submit grant applications for external research support
- To supervise and train undergraduate and postgraduate students

Teaching and Promotion of Learning

- To contribute to the design, development, delivery, assessment and administration of existing and new courses and programmes.

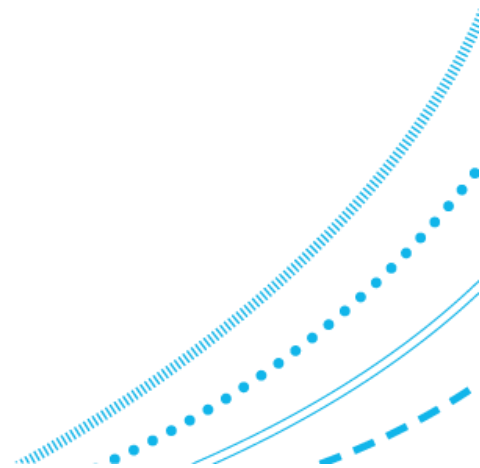


Administrative and support responsibilities

- To supervise students directly, providing a high standard of support and pastoral care.
- To undertake School level administration, as determined by the Head of School.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Applications are invited from candidates with a track record in research leadership in any area of Psychology, whose interests complement and extend any of the School's existing research strengths. Candidates will be able to demonstrate an outstanding research profile, as evidenced by publications in leading academic journals and a track record of successful grant applications. Experience of student supervision and the ability to shape teaching activity is essential. The ability to mentor, motivate and coordinate research teams is important.



TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 9 (Professorial) salary scale, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references.

Should the appointee not already hold a formal teaching qualification (such as Fellowship of the HEA) they will be expected to complete this within the first three years of appointment.

As with all academic staff in the School of Psychology, the appointee will be subject to annual review of their progress.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK. The School will not support remote working on regular basis but occasional working off-campus may be accommodated subject to agreement of the Head of School.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Lauren Storey, HR Adviser (e-mail: lauren.storey@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Professorial scale, by negotiation

HOURS OF WORK:

Full-time

CONTRACT TYPE:

Substantive

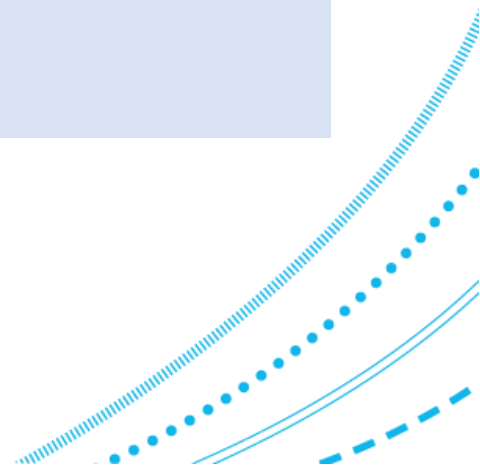
LOCATION:

Aberdeen



PERSON SPECIFICATION - CHAIR

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded PhD in Psychology or cognate disciplines Skills and interests which complement and extend existing expertise in the School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate academic professional and teaching qualifications
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for the development of a research programme which fit with and extend the available resources and expertise in the School Evidence of winning competitive research grants Proven record of academic and administrative leadership Demonstrable ability to plan and shape the direction of research and teaching activity Experience of teaching and supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate levels Ability to contribute to the development of research strategy within the School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of participation in relevant academic and professional associations Evidence of impact activities, knowledge exchange and public engagement generated by research and scholarship Knowledge of ethics and research governance procedures
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership qualities Ability to work independently and act on own initiative Demonstrable ability to work well as part of a team Strong interpersonal and communication skills Strong time management and organisational skills Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability and willingness to work in multidisciplinary collaborative environment Demonstrable ability to work collaboratively



UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.



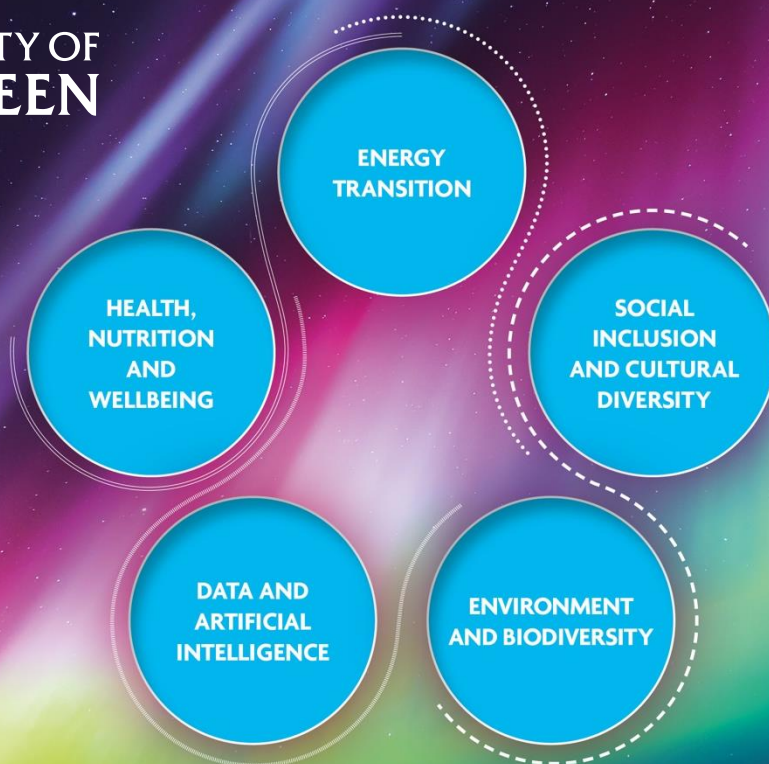
CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen's estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched [Aberdeen 2040](#), our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- Inclusive**
 We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- Interdisciplinary**
 We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- International**
 We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- Sustainable**
 We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.



OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 31st in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to deliver programmes on a dedicated campus in Qatar in partnership with AFG College. Phase 1 has successfully recruited over 600 students and Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ QS World University Rankings 2022

² Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022

³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021

THE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY

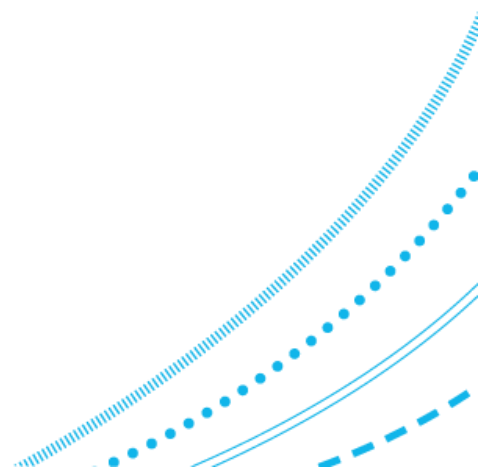
The School of Psychology provides an exciting and collaborative research-led learning environment for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The School has approximately 1000 students and currently offers BSc, MA and MSc programmes in Psychology, all of which are accredited by the British Psychological Society (BPS), as well as research degrees (MRes, MSc by Research, and PhD).

We have a strong track record in research led teaching and in the 2022 National Student Survey, the School was ranked 1st in Scotland and 3rd out of 126 Higher Education Institutions for overall student satisfaction.

Research within the School is structured around three themes: Cognition, Perception & Attention, and Social Cognition. In the last UK-wide assessment of research quality, REF 2021, our School was ranked 27th in the UK in overall league tables, which reflects a combination of working environment, research outputs and research impacts.

The School is committed to a supportive and inclusive work environment and in 2020 we were proud to become the first School in the University to be awarded the Athena SWAN Silver Award for equality and diversity: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/psychology/about/working-environment-291.php>.

More information about the School is available on our website: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/psychology/>.



ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [Music Hall](#), [Art Gallery](#), [the P&J Arena](#), [Museums](#), and [Beach Leisure Centre](#). The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen has ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, and was recently named the happiest city in the UK to live and work in⁴.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com



⁴ Shawbrook Bank Happiest Cities Index 2021

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php>.

The University's commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using [contact SCOTLAND-BSL](#).

The University is delighted to be accredited as a [Disability Confident](#) employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is **30 October 2022**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Arash Sahraie, Head of School (a.sahraie@abdn.ac.uk) or **Professor Neil Macrae** (c.n.macrae@abdn.ac.uk), **Chair of Search Committee.**

Please do **not** send application forms or CVs to Professor Sahraie or Professor Macrae.

Please quote reference number **PSY051A** on all correspondence

