

## Position Description

### Research only – Postdoctoral Researcher in Neuroecology

**Position No:**

**Department:** Physiology, Anatomy and Microbiology

**School:** Life Sciences

**Campus/Location:** Melbourne (Bundoora)

**Classification:** Level A – Postdoctoral Researcher in Neuroecology

**Employment Type:** Full time, Fixed term

**Position Supervisor:** Dean and Head of School  
**Number:** 50143926

**Other Benefits:** <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits>

Further information about:

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

School of Life Sciences – <http://latrobe.edu.au/school-life-sciences>

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**For enquiries only contact:**

Prof Shaun Collin, TEL: +61 (0)3 9479-3671 Email: [s.collin@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:s.collin@latrobe.edu.au)

## Position Description

### Level A – Research Associate

A Level A research only academic is expected to contribute towards the research effort of the institution and to develop their research expertise through the pursuit of defined projects relevant to the particular field of research.

### Position Context

The Neuroecology Research Laboratory lies at the intersection of two major fields of biology (Neurobiology: the study of the nervous system, and Ecology: the study of the interaction between living organisms and their environment). Neuroecology bridges the gap between our knowledge of the neural bases of animal behaviour and the consequences of that behaviour in the context of an animal's habitat and ecology.

We use innovative neurobiological techniques such as molecular genetics, bioimaging, electrophysiology, anatomy and behaviour to examine how key elements of the physical environment such as light, sound, odours, and electromagnetic fields are detected and processed by the peripheral and central nervous systems and how this influences their behaviour. The ability to perceive these environmental cues is critical to the survival of each species. Model indicator species are used to assess how ecosystems may be faring in light of climate variability and habitat loss or degradation.

The research is collaborative involving local, national and international partners.

### Duties at this level may include:

- Conduct and publish high quality and/or high impact research/scholarly activities either independently or as part of a team.
- Develop research related material for teaching or other purposes with appropriate guidance from more senior staff.
- Assist in obtaining research funding from external sources.
- Participate in professional activities including presentations at conferences and seminars in field of expertise.
- Provide advice and supervision within the field of the employee's research to Honours and postgraduate students.
- Attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the unit to which the research is connected and/or at Departmental or School meetings and/or membership of a limited number of committees.
- Acquire and interpret research data and results. Run analyses and tests using specified and agreed techniques and models. Contribute to the development of techniques, models and methods.
- Contribute to and uphold a robust and ambitious research culture.
- Attend Open Day, graduations, and other student events as required.
- Provide service to the profession and/or discipline through professional association memberships.
- Undertake limited administrative functions primarily connected with the area of research.
- Undertake other duties commensurate with the classification and scope of the position as required by the Head of Department or Head of School.

## Key Selection Criteria

- Completion of a PhD in a relevant discipline. Experience as a postdoctoral researcher would be an advantage.
- Demonstrated research productivity through a strong track record in the writing of grant applications, conference papers and the publication of high-impact scientific articles.
- Experience in the analysis and modelling of data, including the capacity to integrate data from a range of sources.
- Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Ability to work effectively as a team member and independently under limited supervision, prioritising workload to deal with urgent tasks, while maintaining a high standard of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Demonstrated high level of self-motivation and personal management skills.
- Demonstrated experience with undergraduate and postgraduate student supervision.

## Other relevant information:

- A strong background in neuroscience, statistics, data processing and programming (Matlab, Python and R) and a keen interest in this research area is highly desirable.
- Ideally you will have hands-on experience with neuroimaging techniques (e.g. MRI, microCT, diceCT, XEDS), analysis and visualisation, using software such as Matlab and AVIZO.
- Experience with electrophysiological recordings (such as ERG, EOG or other) and histological techniques (SEM, TEM, immunohistochemistry), including stereological analysis, would be an advantage.

## Essential Compliance Requirements

To hold this La Trobe University position the occupant must:

- hold, or be willing to undertake and pass, a Victorian Working With Children Check; AND
- take personal accountability to comply with all University policies, procedures and legislative or regulatory obligations; including but not limited to TEQSA and the Higher Education Threshold Standards.

## La Trobe Cultural Qualities

Our cultural qualities underpin everything we do. As we work towards realising the strategic goals of the University we strive to work in a way which is aligned to our four cultural qualities:

- We are **Connected**: We connect to the world outside — the students and communities we serve, both locally and globally.
- We are **Innovative**: We tackle the big issues of our time to transform the lives of our students and society.
- We are **Accountable**: We strive for excellence in everything we do. We hold each other and ourselves to account, and work to the highest standard.
- We **Care**: We care about what we do and why we do it. We believe in the power of education and research to transform lives and global society. We care about being the difference in the lives of our students and communities.

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For Human Resource Use Only

Initials:              Date:

Human Resources, HR Assist

Last updated July 2017