

**College of Human and Health Sciences**  
**(Department of Psychology)**

**Fixed Term Research Officer (Sleep Laboratory)**

**Salary:** £31,020 - £32,901 per annum (pro rata for part time staff).

Applications are invited for the position of Fixed Term Research Officer in the Swansea University Sleep Laboratory, in the College of Human and Health Sciences **reference 6082**. The post-holder will lead the data collection on an ESRC-funded 8 month project titled "Dream content as a measure of memory consolidation across multiple periods of sleep". This is a full time position from 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.

The project consists of 4 experiments that assess the incorporation of waking life events into dreams, and how those incorporations change over time. The aim of the project is to investigate how the brain consolidates memories during sleep over a time scale of one to two weeks. Data collection will occur at the Swansea University Sleep Laboratory and, for some participants, in their home environment.

The project is a collaboration with the Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab at University of California, Berkeley, the University of Manchester Sleep and Memory Lab, and the University of York Sleep, Language and Memory Lab.

Applicants must have a good honours degree in Psychology, Neuroscience (or related subject) and possess a PhD (or near completion) also in a related subject. Expertise in polysomnography and experience of conducting research in a sleep laboratory is essential.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Professor Mark Blagrove, at [m.t.blagrove@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:m.t.blagrove@swansea.ac.uk)

An application form and further details may be obtained, quoting the appropriate reference, from the HR Department, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, tel. (01792) 295136 (24 hours) or at <http://www.swan.ac.uk/personnel/Vacancies/>. Closing date: **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012**.

*We are an equal opportunity employer aiming for diversity in our workforce.*

**January 2012**

**SWANSEA UNIVERSITY**  
**PRIFYSGOL ABERTAWE**

**Job Description**

<b>Post Title</b>	Fixed Term Research Officer (Sleep Laboratory)
<b>Grade</b>	RG 8
<b>College</b>	College of Human and Health Sciences
<b>Reports to</b>	Professor Mark Blagrove
<b>Post Reference</b>	6082

**The Project**

The Research Officer will lead the data collection on an ESRC-funded 8 month project titled "Dream content as a measure of memory consolidation across multiple periods of sleep".

The project consists of 4 experiments that assess the incorporation of waking life events into dreams, and how those incorporations change over time. The aim of the project is to investigate how the brain consolidates memories during sleep over a time scale of one to two weeks. Data collection will occur at the Swansea University Sleep Laboratory and, for some participants, in their home environment.

The project is a collaboration with the Sleep and Neuroimaging Laboratory at University of California, Berkeley, the University of Manchester Sleep and Memory Lab, and the University of York Sleep, Language and Memory Lab. The project will start on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012, or as soon as possible thereafter.

**Main Purpose of Post**

The post-holder must have expertise in polysomnography and experience of conducting research in a sleep laboratory.

The post-holder will recruit 200 participants for 4 experiments at Swansea; organise, run and collect all required data; run all-night sleep laboratory data collection sessions, making on-line sleep staging decisions and ensuring the safety and comfort of the participants in the sleep laboratory; organise home dream report collection using portable sleep analysis equipment; run a PC-presented lexical decision and learning task; prepare data from the participants so that it can be posted to independent judges at the Manchester and York Sleep Laboratories; conduct final data checking and analyses, and aid in the preparation of the final project report and papers.

**Specific Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Responsible for the oversight of the four studies and the management of the research activities under the guidance of Professor Mark Blagrove (PI), Professor Gareth Gaskell (York), Professor Matt Walker (Berkeley) and Dr Penny Lewis (Manchester).
2. Liaise and communicate with the other collaborating universities throughout the project
3. Management of the recruitment of participants in the studies.
4. Inform potential participants about the study, respond to questions and concerns and secure appropriate consents.
5. Establish a positive rapport with participants so as to provide a conducive setting for the experiment protocols.
6. Use problem-solving skills to seek to maintain participants' involvement in the studies.

7. Run 12-hour overnight sleep laboratory sessions to enable collection of dream reports and associated EEG records.
8. Responsibility for transcription of dream reports from Digital Voice Recordings.
9. Run and collect data from a PC-presented lexical learning task.
10. Enter data from the experiments into SPSS.
11. Oversee the transfer of raw dream report and EEG data to the Sleep Laboratories at Manchester and York Universities
12. Maintain a schedule of testing and ensure timely running of all participants.
13. Responsibility for backing up data from the studies.
14. To provide reports on project progress and issues affecting progress as required to the PI and co-investigators.
15. To check, interrogate and analyse data from the project
16. To assist the investigators in writing reports for publication in peer reviewed journals and for other stakeholders.
17. To aid the dissemination and communication of the findings of the project.
18. Maintain the security of data obtained and observe confidentiality regarding participants and their involvement.
19. Understand and follow ethics and governance requirements in relation to the project.

### **General Duties and Responsibilities**

This appointment in the College of Human and Health Science has a number of generic objectives common to research appointments. These relate to developing and generating novel research concepts, designs, directions, and outputs in areas related to sleep research.

A Research Officer will be expected to:

1. Pro-actively contribute to and conduct research, including gather, prepare and analyse data and present results, exhibiting a degree of independence in terms of specifying the focus and direction of that research.
2. Prepare reports, draft patents and papers describing the results of the research, both confidential and for publication. The appointee is expected to be actively engaged in the writing and publishing of research papers, particularly those intended for publication in refereed (eg international) journals or comparable as a normal part of their role.
3. Be self-motivated, apply and use their initiative, aiming to determine suitable ways to tackle challenges and seeking guidance when needed
4. Use creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes
5. Interact positively and professionally with other collaborators and partners within the College, elsewhere in the University and beyond both in industry/commerce and academia.
6. Contribute pro-actively to the development of external funding applications to support their own work, that of others and the College / Department/ Institution in general. The appointee will be expected as a normal part of their work to be actively engaged in writing, or contributing to writing such applications.

7. Contribute to College organisational matters in order to help it run smoothly and to help raise its external research profile.
  8. Keep informed of developments in the field in both technical terms and the wider subject area and the implication for commercial applications and the knowledge economy or academia.
  9. When requested act as a representative or member of committees, using the opportunity to extend their own professional experience.
  10. Demonstrate and evidence own professional development, particularly with regard to probation, appraisal, and performance reviews, and participation in training events, in line with the recommendations of the Research Councils' Joint Skills Statement.
  11. Maintain and enhance links with the professional institutions and other related bodies.
  12. Observe best-practice protocols in maintenance and retention of research records as indicated by HEI and Research Councils records management guidance. This includes ensuring project log-book records are deposited with the University/Principal Investigator on completion of the work
  13. Participate in and undertake other research or administrative activities appropriate to their experience and skill, and as directed by the Head of the College / Institute or such other person delegated to act with their authority.
  14. To promote equality and diversity in working practices and maintain positive working relationships
  15. To fully engage with the University's Performance Enabling and Welsh language policies
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This is a fixed term position from 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 and the commencing salary will be on the following scale for Research Staff, together with USS pension benefits, if required:

**Grade:** £31,020 - £32,901 per annum (pro rata for part time staff).

The normal expectation is that the successful applicant will be appointed to the minimum of the scale with annual increments on 1 October each year (subject to completing six months service).

**Hours:** 35 hours per week. (For the nights that whole night sleep recoding is needed 12 hours will be worked each night, subject to statutory break periods)

**Annual leave:** 31 days per annum plus Bank Holidays (pro rata for part time staff)

The Job Description sets out the duties of this post as at the closing date. It has been graded as RG 8 against the benchmark profile for this grade. This profile is available at: [http://www.swan.ac.uk/media/Media\\_27970\\_en.pdf](http://www.swan.ac.uk/media/Media_27970_en.pdf) It may be necessary for these duties to be varied from time to time within the grade definition.

The appointment is subject to the General Terms of Appointment for Academic Staff as set out in the attached:

<http://www.swan.ac.uk/personnel/GeneralInformation/TermsandConditions/AcademicStaffTermsConditions/>

The following link provides further information on the benefits of working in Swansea University: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/hr/GeneralInformation/NewProspectiveStaff/>.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Professor Mark Blagrove, at [m.t.blagrove@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:m.t.blagrove@swansea.ac.uk)

Completed application forms should be returned to the HR Department, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, by **5pm, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012.**

You are encouraged to investigate these sites on the Internet for more general information about the Swansea University Sleep Laboratory: [www.swansea.ac.uk/sleeplab](http://www.swansea.ac.uk/sleeplab); the Department of Psychology: [www.psy.swan.ac.uk](http://www.psy.swan.ac.uk); the University of Manchester Sleep and Memory Lab: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/plewis>; the University of York Sleep, Language and Memory Lab: [www.york.ac.uk/psychology/research/groups/slam](http://www.york.ac.uk/psychology/research/groups/slam); the Sleep and Neuroimaging Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley: <http://walkerlab.berkeley.edu>; about living in Swansea and its surrounds: [www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk) and travelling to work at the University: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/media/CampusPlan.pdf>.

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**Person Specification**

- Specified below are the criteria that are necessary to undertake the post.
- **Only candidates who meet the essential criteria of the person specification will be short-listed.**

<b>Post Title</b>	Fixed Term Research Officer (Sleep Laboratory)
<b>Grade</b>	RG 8
<b>College</b>	College of Human and Health Sciences
<b>Post Reference</b>	6082

Description of criteria and evidence expected:	Method of Assessment			
	Application Form	Presentation	Interview	Occupational Assessment
Qualifications				
Competencies/Abilities e.g. IT, numerical, technical, communication, collaboration skills accuracy etc.				
Knowledge/Experience				
<b>Essential Criteria</b>				
A good honours degree in Psychology, Neuroscience or a related subject	✓			
Obtained a PhD (or near completion) in a relevant field	✓			
Experience of organisation of people-based research	✓		✓	
Experience of conducting research in a sleep laboratory	✓		✓	
A demonstrable ability to conduct research in line with the objectives of the project	✓		✓	
The ability to actively engage in and contribute to writing and publishing research papers, particularly for refereed journals	✓		✓	
Ability to demonstrate significant independence of focus and direction in research – determining 'what, why, when and with whom' to progress work.	✓		✓	
Evidence of the ability to manage own research and administrative activities to meet deadlines	✓		✓	
Experience of and a demonstrable ability to conduct quantitative data analysis	✓		✓	
Ability to set up and conduct polysomnographic recordings and to score in real time sleep records in accordance with APSS 2007 criteria	✓		✓	
Ability to run all night sleep studies and to conduct awakenings so as to collect dream reports	✓		✓	
Ability to run PC-presented stimulus – response tasks, with some expertise in the programming of such tasks using standard software, e.g., e-prime.	✓		✓	
Good interpersonal and communication (oral and written skills) including the ability to develop constructive relationships with research participants	✓		✓	
Ability to work independently and as a member of a team	✓		✓	

Ability to travel to conduct data collection in participants' homes (adjustments in line with DDA will be considered where appropriate)	✓		✓	
Excellent levels of ITC skills including in the use of SPSS	✓		✓	
Evidence of the ability to disseminate verbal and written research information to a variety of audiences	✓		✓	
Excellent organisational skills including the ability to organise meetings and other dissemination events	✓		✓	
<b>Desirable Criteria</b>				
Car driver with own transport (adjustments in line with DDA will be considered where appropriate)	✓		✓	
Evidence of commitment to Continuing Professional Development	✓		✓	
Publishing record in the fields of sleep, memory, learning or dreaming.	✓		✓	
Ability to communicate well in both Welsh and English	✓		✓	

