

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW IN THE BEHAVIOURAL ECOLOGY AND GENETICS OF SOCIAL SYSTEMS

Full time, 3 years fixed term Expected start date: 1 January 2015 Salary range: starting at £31,342 and rising to £37,394. It is normal to appoint at the first point of the salary scale. **Closing date for applications: 19 November 2014**

Interviews will be held during 3-11 December 2014. A full-time, NERC-funded, 3-year postdoctoral research position is available in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Sussex. The position offers an exciting opportunity to join a research team led by Prof Jeremy Field working on the behavioural and evolutionary ecology of social systems (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/fieldlab/>)

The main aim of the project is to use a combination of approaches from behavioural ecology and quantitative genetics to investigate queen-worker coadaptation and conflict in primitively eusocial sweat bees (*Lasioglossum*)

The resolution of reproductive conflicts has been well studied both theoretically and empirically in eusocial Hymenoptera. However, much less is known about the coevolutionary process involved, and the underlying trait architecture. The work will lead to a comprehensive understanding of queen-worker coevolution, including the first tests of several key hypotheses.

Work will be carried out at Sussex University, also involving collaboration with Prof Mathias Kölliker (University of Basel, Switzerland:

<http://evolution.unibas.ch/koelliker/>)

The project will involve a combination of large-scale field experiments in the UK, and genetic work using microsatellite markers. There will be a technician working on the project who will carry out much of the molecular work. The successful applicant will have a Ph.D in behavioural/evolutionary biology. Experience with animal social systems and quantitative genetics, and experience of fieldwork, molecular techniques and statistical analysis using R and similar programs would all be useful, but it is not necessary to have experience in all of these areas. Possession of a clean driving licence is essential. The Evolution, Behaviour and Environment (EBE) Subject Group in the School of Life Sciences at Sussex (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/ebe/research>)

is a thriving research environment providing ample opportunities to interact with leading senior researchers and their groups. The successful applicant will particularly benefit from an exceptional, on a world scale, concentration of research expertise that focusses on social behaviour in insects. Jeremy Field, Francis Ratnieks, Bill Hughes, Dave Goulson, Tom Collett and Paul Graham all lead well-established research groups. Our seminar series have a correspondingly strong (though by no means exclusive) focus on social evolution. Full details of the post, with information about where to submit an application, salary and the University of Sussex application form, are available at:

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/aboutus/jobs/876>

Please note that the full application, including CV, covering letter and completed standard application form should be sent to

lifescirecruitment@sussex.ac.uk

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