

PhD Studentship Position – Research project on investigating the relationship between peak alpha frequency and post-surgical pain sensitivity

We are inviting applications for a PhD studentship (start date between September and January 2022) in the School of Psychology at the University of Birmingham. This is a fully-funded studentship which also covers UK home tuition fees (details below).

The successful candidate will do their project at the University of Birmingham, under the supervision of Dr Ali Mazaheri (University of Birmingham, UK), Professor Gao Smith (University of Birmingham, UK) and Professor David Seminowicz (Western University, Canada).

The PhD dissertation will have the overarching aim of investigating how modifying ongoing oscillations can be used to treat acute or chronic pain.

Essential skills: This studentship is most suited for a researcher with an MSc degree in psychology, though we will consider equivalent or related degrees. We are looking for someone with research experience (i.e. collecting and/or analysing data), strong background knowledge of statistics, a background in experimental psychology and a keen interest in neural oscillations and pain. Strong organisation and time-management skills, a positive problem-solving attitude, and strong teamwork skills are also important.

Desired skills: We would prefer candidates with some experience specifically with signal processing in Matlab (or Python) and statistical analyses (preferably mixed models) in R, and experience with programming. These are skills that will be required to complete the PhD. However, we will also consider applicants who do not yet have these skills but are highly motivated to learn them during the project.

Funding: Funding is available from Empower Therapeutics, a University of Birmingham/University of Maryland spin-out, to cover University of Birmingham PhD fees at ~£4500 per year (i.e. fees for Home/UK students only) for 3 years, as well as a stipend at the standard rate of ~£15,000 per year for 3 years.

To let us know you are interested, please email a.mazaheri@bham.ac.uk and send in: a cover letter, CV (including the names of two referees), and a piece of writing (e.g. your dissertation or a statement on your research interests).