



THE POST

College:	Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Associate / Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Reference No:	P60266
Grade:	E/F

The above full time post is available for 24 months in the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences. The start date could be September 1, 2018, but earlier/later start dates will also be considered.

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

The broad goal of the position is to carry out original research on protoplanetary discs using high-angular resolution observations. The successful applicant will work in the context of a European Research Council (ERC) Starting grant project that conducts instrumentation work in infrared interferometry to enable breakthrough results in imaging time-variable, planet-induced structures in the inner-most AU of protoplanetary discs. The work will centre on obtaining the observations, combining them with complementary data, and interpreting them with the latest physical models. We are particularly interested in applicants with expertise in radiative transfer modelling of complex multi-wavelength data sets or in high-angular imaging techniques (e.g. ALMA, VLTI, adaptive optics). We will provide assistance with relocation costs where eligible. On the RFEL level, the candidate will be expected to dedicate a small fraction (up to 10%) of the time on promoting the science opportunities of optical interferometry and supporting VLTI users in the context of the currently-being established VLTI Expertise Centre network.

Postdoctoral Research Associate

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Writing up research work for publication;
 - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
 - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
 - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
 - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
 - Using new research techniques and methods;
 - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
 - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
2. To contribute to teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills.
3. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
 - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.

- Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
 5. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
 6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
 7. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others. Where appropriate, will also be responsible for conducting risk assessments.
 8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
 9. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing skills.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	
Skills and Understanding	Evidence of research activity and published research. Detailed knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques (interferometry, infrared and sub-millimetre; radiative transfer modelling) to work within established research programmes.	Evidence of research activity and published research.
Prior Experience	Understanding of health and safety legislation.	Experience of undergraduate teaching
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature. Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines. Able to liaise with colleagues and students. Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration. Able to identify potential sources of funding. Actively participate as a member of a research team. Engage in continuous professional development.	

	Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content. Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments.	
Circumstances	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands	

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study. The responsibilities may include all or some of the following:
 - Acting as principal investigator on research projects;
 - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
 - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;
 - Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
 - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
 - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
 - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
 - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
 - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
 - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
 - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
 - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
 - Deciding on / following research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
 - Promoting the capabilities of optical interferometry at meetings and supporting VLTI users as part of the VLTI Expertise Centre network
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
3. To act as research team leader including:
 - Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
 - Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
 - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
 - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
 - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
 - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.
4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.
5. As determined by the nature of the project and at the direction of the PI, to plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme activity including:
 - Managing the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them;
 - Monitoring and reporting on the use of research budgets;

- Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
- Where appropriate, to plan and manage own consultancy assignments.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area.
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline (interferometry, infrared and sub-millimetre; radiative transfer modelling) to develop/follow research programmes and methodologies. Record of research output in high quality publications.	
Prior Experience	Experience of managing research projects and research teams.	Experience of undergraduate/postgraduate teaching and supervision. Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups. Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking. Able to participate in and develop external networks. Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.	Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.
Circumstances or Additional Competencies/Experience	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands	

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Prof. Stefan Kraus, telephone +44 1392 724125 or email skraus@astro.ex.ac.uk

Terms & Conditions

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

Further Information

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.