POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Officer
Organisation Unit: Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Position Number: 3038684
Type of Employment: Full time, fixed term for 3 years
Classification: Research Academic Level A

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (45), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (51), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index; and secured a greater share of Australian Research Council grants in 2016 ($24.5 million) than any other university nationally.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience –the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland’s highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 230,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.7 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

V5 October 2016
UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and will have further success in this area as an important strategic aim going forward.

Organisational Environment

The Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) is a research institute of the University of Queensland (UQ) which was established in 2010 and comprises of three research centres – the Centre for Plant Science, the Centre for Animal Science, the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences.

QAAFI’s team of 450 researchers, postgraduate students and support staff undertake high impact science for agriculture and food industries. The institute’s strong partnership with the Queensland Government provides our researchers with a direct link to the agriculture industry in Queensland, and world class field research facilities throughout Queensland. Agriculture is one of UQ’s highest ranked research fields nationally and internationally and QAAFI is a global leader in agricultural research in subtropical and tropical production systems.

QAAFI scientists are driven to make a difference to the agriculture and food industries and have over 150 collaborators worldwide.

Details of the research interests of the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s web site at http://www.qaafi.uq.edu.au

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The Post-Doctoral Scientist (PDS) will play a key role in a project entitled ‘Biomarkers and accurate phenotyping for selecting resistance to cattle ticks (Rhipicephalus microplus species complex), buffalo flies (Haematobia exigua) and buffalo fly lesions’ funded through Meat & Livestock Australia. The project is part of larger consortium of projects whereby samples will be shared between projects enabling the research within several northern cattle research initiatives. Duties of this position will include coordinating and performing research into the accurate phenotyping of cattle for resistance to cattle ticks and buffalo flies, the identification of immune and molecular host biomarkers for parasite resistance, assisting in supervision and mentoring of postgraduate and undergraduate students associated with the project and linking with researchers involved in associated projects towards the identification of genomic markers in cattle. The PDS will be situated in the Centre for Animal Science, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation in Brisbane.
Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Teaching and Learning**
- Support and supervise research students at honours and postgraduate levels

**Research**
- Coordinate research associated with an externally funded project in the area of biomarkers and accurate phenotyping for selecting resistance to cattle ticks, buffalo flies and buffalo fly lesions
- Conduct research and publish scholarly papers
- Contribute to milestone reports and project budget management
- Assist with the coordination and management of sample collections from cattle herds both directly associated with the project and also from herds associated with other UQ research projects
- Ensure Animal Ethics applications and approvals are in place and appropriate for the planned research activities

**Service and Engagement**
- Perform a range of administrative functions in the Institute as appropriate, safety committees, OGTR compliance etc.
- Foster the School’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisors

**Other**

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:
- the University’s Code of Conduct
- requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related [OH&S responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University or Institute/School
- the adoption sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University [sustainability responsibilities and procedures](#)
- requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related [responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University

**Organisational Relationships**

The position reports to Professor Ala Tabor and Dr Peter James within the Centre of Animal Science, QAAFI.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**
- PhD within one or a combination of the following disciplines: animal health, parasite-host interactions including immunology, parasitology, and molecular biology skills including next generation sequencing and/or proteomics analyses.
- Demonstrated experience with large animal research and management including Animal Ethics
- Demonstrated molecular biology laboratory skills including nucleic acid and protein preparation for high throughput analysis
- Demonstrated computer skills for data analysis and project management
- Ability to support Honours and/or postgraduate students
- An ability to establish effective relationships and to represent and promote academic discipline at a university and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies.
- Evidence of a contribution to research, including publications, patents and/or successful external grant applications.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues (current driver’s license essential).

**Desirable**
- Direct experience researching ectoparasites such as buffalo flies and/or ticks.
- Bioinformatics skills associated the management of large data sets.

Please refer to the Criteria for Academic Performance policy PPL 5.70.17 when developing the duties and selection criteria for academic roles

**Qualification Verification**

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For further information please contact our Australian Indigenous Employment Coordinator at: atsi_recruitment@uq.edu.au

Applications are also encouraged from women.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.