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 (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), 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 our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

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 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 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,

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: The Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number: 3039655
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term for 12 months
Classification: HEW Level 5
sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

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 this will be a strategic focus going forward.

**Organisational Environment**

The Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) works to understand the development, organisation and function of the brain. We aim to understand the neural circuits in the brain, how their function results in behavioural outcomes, and how dysfunction of these circuits leads to disorders such as dementia, Parkinson’s disease and schizophrenia. We aim to (1) Develop novel therapeutic approaches to treat disorders of neural function and (2) Use our understanding of brain function to improve learning in classrooms and in the workplace.

Established in 2003, QBI is housed on the St Lucia campus of UQ. It is home to more than 450 staff and students, including 41 group leaders.

Over the past decade QBI has become known as one of the world’s leading neuroscience research institutes. It played a key role in contributing to UQ attaining the highest possible score of 5 for neuroscience, in both the 2010, 2012, and 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews, one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

Information about the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s web site at www.qbi.uq.edu.au

**Program Description**

The Hilliard laboratory uses *C. elegans* as an experimental model system to study neuronal development, with particular emphasis on neuronal degeneration/regeneration. Using primarily a genetic approach, research in the lab aims to identify the key molecules and the mechanisms regulating these essential and fascinating processes. Please visit our lab websites for more information:

https://qbi.uq.edu.au/hilliardgroup
http://www.hilliardlab.com

**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

**DUTY STATEMENT**

**Primary Purpose of Position**

An opportunity exists for a motivated person to join a multidisciplinary research team to provide technical support for postdoctoral scientists and PhD students. This is a critical support role that helps to maintain an efficient research environment. Opportunities exist to learn a wide variety of techniques and to contribute significantly to different research projects.
Duties
Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Freezing and maintaining a *C. elegans* strain collection.
- Molecular biology including PCR, DNA and RNA isolation, genotyping and generation of plasmid constructs.
- Preparation of *C. elegans* transgenic lines.
- Perform routine maintenance of the laboratory to maintain a clean and tidy environment.
- Ordering consumables and reagents

Other
Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including:

- 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 the Principal Research Fellow, Associate Professor Massimo Hilliard.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Essential**

- A Bachelor’s Degree with Honours, Masters or an equivalent combination of experience and training/education.
- Experience with molecular biology techniques and/or genetics.
- Experience with PCR and DNA cloning.
- Organization skills.
- Ability to work with a team.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.

**Desirable**

- Ability to manage time effectively under conflicting demands on time and changing priorities.
- Experience in Neuroscience or Developmental Biology is preferred.
- Ability to work responsibly, accurately and independently after basic training in techniques.
- The ability to trouble-shoot techniques.
- Attention to detail and a methodical but expeditious approach to research work.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake experiments using a range of techniques.
- Ability to bring the work to completion so as to obtain publishable results.

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.