POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:             Research Officer
Organisation Unit:        UQ Diamantina Institute
Position Number:          TBA
Type of Employment:       Full time, Fixed term 2 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 (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, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

Dec 2017
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.

The Faculty of Medicine

The University of Queensland’s Faculty of Medicine is an internationally recognised provider of world-class education and research. The research-intensive Faculty has a gross budget of almost $300 million, employs approximately 1000 continuing and fixed-term staff (headcount), has a community of more than 4000 non-salaried academic appointees and around 3200 students (headcount).

The Faculty of Medicine offers Australia’s largest medical degree program for graduates and school-leavers. Undergraduate and postgraduate programs are available in the disciplines of Medicine, Health Sciences, E-Health, Mental Health, Biomedical Sciences and Public Health.

The Faculty possesses enormous strengths spanning research, teaching, industry engagement and clinical practice in disciplines ranging from the basic sciences, biomedical research and development, to clinical trials and public health. Research projects within the Faculty have already led to discoveries with far-reaching social and economic impacts, including the revolutionary Gardasil (TM) vaccine for cervical cancer (Professor Ian Frazer) and a drug discovery EMA401 (Professor Maree Smith), a first-in-class oral treatment for chronic pain which through Spinafex Pharmaceuticals led to Australia’s largest biotechnology commercialisation deal. Faculty staff include three highly cited authors, one Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), three Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science (FAA) and 12 Fellows of the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). The Faculty is a core member of Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners, the Brisbane-wide academic health science system.

Educational offerings in biomedical sciences, medicine and public health are informed and supported by research activity across a range of fundamental and clinical areas of importance including recognised strengths in cancer, skin diseases, brain and mental health, maternal and child health and genomics. Cutting-edge facilities such as the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR), our laboratories in the Translational Research Institute (TRI) and the new Centre for Children’s Health Research (CCHR) enable outstanding research outcomes and sharpen our understanding of cancer, autoimmunity, mental disorders, infectious diseases and neurological disease. Further details are available at www.medicine.uq.edu.au.

The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute

The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute was established in 2007 as the sixth research institute of The University of Queensland. The aim of the Institute is to develop a better understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of disease, and to translate that understanding into practical outcomes for patients. Based at the Translational Research Institute (TRI) at the Princess Alexandra Hospital teaching campus in Brisbane, the Institute has more than 300 researchers and students who work closely with clinicians in the areas of cancer, immunology and genomic medicine.
UQDI is the largest partner in TRI, and is building major programs in Immunology, Cancer and Genomic Medicine research, with a particular focus on research aimed at development of new treatments. TRI is an Australian first and will see Australia play a leading role in international efforts to address a wide range of health issues. UQDI itself is an extremely well-equipped translational biomedical research institute, with outstanding facilities for research in animal models of disease including cutting-edge imaging technologies, human cell and molecular biology research in cancer and immunology, microbiology, and genomics research. Its close affiliation with clinical units at Princess Alexandra Hospital provides it with a significant strategic advantage in near-patient, translational research. UQDI is part of The University of Queensland, one of the top Australasian universities, and internationally is ranked in the top 100 universities in all major independent rankings. UQDI academics are part of a vibrant and highly successful academic institution optimising their chances of research success. Details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the Institute’s web site at http://www.di.uq.edu.au/research.

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 Research Officer experienced in the field of immunology will conduct team-based and develop independent high quality research into blood cancers. The successful applicant will conduct experiments to analyse antigen-specific T cells and response to check-point blockade from individuals with blood cancer. As well as data analysis and documentation, the position involves supervision of Honours and Research Higher Degree students, publication and presentation of work. As part of a team, the appointee will collaborate and interact with immunologists, clinicians and statisticians/bioinformaticians utilising a number of core technologies including single cell sequencing and transcriptomics, flow cytometry and mass spectrometry, analysis of antigen responses in vitro and in humanised mice, proteomic analysis and structural immunology. Experience in EBV-specific dextramer assays and FACS based HLA typing is desirable.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Conduct high quality research using in vitro and in vivo immunological cellular and molecular techniques
- Contribute to the quality assurance and monitoring of the data and documentation of all procedures
- Acquire and maintain familiarity with relevant scientific literature and contribute a strong and independent academic approach to the work
- Present results of research at meetings
• Publish scholarly papers
• Supervise post-graduate students engaged in research and more junior members of the team
• Contribute to safe laboratory working environment
• Contribute to smooth running of the laboratory

**Service and Engagement**
• Perform a range of administrative functions in the School
• Contribute to the processes that enable the academic team to manage the work of the School, including participate in School decision-making and serve on School committees
• Foster the School's relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
• Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor

**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 of 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 Chair in Blood Cancer Research.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- A PhD in Immunology
- Practical laboratory experience in cellular, molecular and in vivo immunology
- Evidence of a high level of contribution to research through publication of scholarly papers in the international literature and presentation of scientific work at international meetings
- Growing profile of contributions to internal and external service and engagement, and of contribution to the effective supervision of Honours and/or Research Higher Degree students
- Experience handling biological specimens and infectious agents and understanding of basic laboratory safety (such as radiation and chemical toxicity)
- Excellent record keeping and attention to detail
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Computer literacy
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and in teams
- Ability to work relatively independently with excellent organisational skills that allow for meeting deadlines

Desirable

- Experience submitting, and preferably attracting, small grants and fellowships
- Experience liaising with industry
- Strong background in molecular techniques as applied to isolated immune cells

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.

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 and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University’s Diversity and Inclusion webpage (http://www.uq.edu.au/equity) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

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

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.