POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: Faculty of Medicine
Position Number: 1303204
Type of Employment: Fixed-term, part-time (0.5 FTE for 6 months)
Classification: Hew 5

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 (65). 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.
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.

**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.

**UQ Centre for Clinical Research**

The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) is a $70 million purpose-built facility sponsored by Atlantic Philanthropies, the Queensland Government (Smart State funding) and UQ. The building, completed in early 2008, is located at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital site at Herston, Brisbane. The RBWH is the largest teaching hospital in Australia and the site also houses a basic medical research institute (QIMR), and a significant Faculty of Medicine presence, including the Schools of Public Health. The UQCCR has capacity for 320 staff with affiliation guided by research strengths, assessed by defined research quality indicators.
UQCCR’s mission is to improve health outcomes for individuals and populations based on rigorous, high quality clinical research. This is achieved by facilitating research and training, influencing patient care, and providing the translational linkages between basic and applied scientific research, the patient, and health outcomes. The current research themes are: Mothers, Babies and Lifelong Health; Infection and Immunity; Brain and Mental Health; and Cancer.

UQCCR is a University-level research Centre reporting to the Research Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. The centre’s postgraduate students are enrolled through partnering Schools.

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

This position will be involved with the recruitment of volunteers, in-depth phone and face-to-face interviews with twin individuals as well as ascertaining family seizure history and family pedigrees. Assistance will also be required with the writing of grants, research reports, ethics submissions and reports as well as preparation of materials for presentation.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of different epilepsy types, their key clinical features and related genetic basis.
- Attend hospital outpatient clinics to recruit volunteers for the study.
- Recruitment and consenting of volunteers and family members by telephone.
- Coordination of appointments, interviews and projects.
- Conduct face-to-face and telephone interviews with volunteers and family members about their seizure history and family trees.
- Coordinate pathology specimen collection and transport.
- Review data from twin studies to ascertain preliminary clinical classification and enter data onto a research database.
- Collate and analyse clinical data to investigate specific hypotheses.
- Assist with the writing of grants and peer-reviewed papers.
- Prepare and present scientific data for oral or poster communication.
- Contribute to team meetings through participation in discussions or related research publications and the presentation of research data for discussion.
- Other duties are required in alignment with the position classification.
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

This position reports directly to Associate Professor Lata Vadlamudi.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications

Essential

- A tertiary degree in biological/medical Science with an interest in genetics. or relevant experience or training in a medical or science field.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to build rapport with adults and children, across a diverse range of community and cultural groups.
- Demonstrated ability to use tact and discretion in communicating around issues of health.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Demonstrated capacity to undertake high quality written analysis, such as literature reviews.
- Previous experience with research grant applications and manuscript writing.
- Ability to work individually and as part of a team.
- Ability to work independently and take responsibility for initiatives.
- Have a track record of finishing tasks on time and to a high standard, with attention to detail.
- Ability to maintain strict confidentiality.

Desirable

- Qualification or experience in any of genetics, epilepsy or counselling.
- Background in genetics and blood sampling

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 part time position and flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

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