POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology
Position Number: 3038741
Type of Employment: Fixed term, full-time
Classification: HEW Level 6

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.
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 University of Queensland’s Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) is a dynamic multi-disciplinary research institute dedicated to developing technology to alleviate societal problems in the areas of health, energy, manufacturing and environmental sustainability. AIBN brings together the skills of more than 450 world-class researchers complimented by an extensive suite of integrated facilities, working at the intersection of biology, chemistry, engineering and computer modelling. With a reputation for delivering translational science, AIBN conducts research at the forefront of emerging technologies, and has developed strong collaborations with leading members of industry, academia and government. AIBN goes beyond basic research to develop the growth of innovative industries for the benefit of the Queensland and Australian economies. Information about the Institute can be accessed on the Institute’s web site at http://www.aibn.uq.edu.au/.

AIBN is committed to supporting the career growth of female researchers and have a number of initiatives to support females in developing and achieving a fulfilling research career at the institute. For more information, please visit our AIBN Women in Science web site at http://www.aibn.uq.edu.au/women.

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

The primary purpose of this position is to provide tissue culture, molecular/cell biology, animal, and administrative support for the research staff in the Neurometabolism Laboratory within the AIBN.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Laboratory**

- Generation of human iPSC
- Tissue culture of pluripotent stem cells and primary human muscle cells
- Transfection of cells
- Mini and Maxi preps of various vectors, diagnostic digests, set up sequencing reactions
- RT-PCR and Q-PCR to assess gene expression profiles in human cells and animal tissue
- Western blotting to assess protein expression profiles in human cells and animal tissue
- Immuno characterisation of human cells and animal tissue
- Teratoma assays
- Karyotyping
- Dietary intervention and behavioural and metabolic phenotyping of laboratory mice
- Assessment of cellular bioenergetics

**Administration**
- General laboratory support, maintain consumables and laboratory inventories
- Purchasing (ordering and receiving items), and maintenance of human and animal ethics
- Assisting with the administrative and financial aspects of the preparation of research grant applications
- Assisting research staff and students to complete Travel Forms, Fieldwork Safety Plans and Risk Assessments
- 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 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 Dr Shyuan Ngo.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in a relevant area and subsequent relevant experience or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Experience in tissue culture of human-derived cells
- Experience with assessing cell bioenergetics
- Experience with maintenance of, and behavioural and metabolic phenotyping in laboratory mice

Desirable

- Experience in and proficiency with iPSC generation
- Experience with Molecular and Cell biology techniques
- Experience with Immunofluorescence techniques or FACS
- Experience with Teratomas
- Experience with Karyotyping

Personal Qualities

- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues from different disciplines
- Sound organisational and problem-solving skills
- Responsible approach to equipment use and maintenance
- Ability to learn new skills and use new technologies
- Ability to work with limited supervision
- Versatility and ability to multitask
- Excellent time management skills and demonstrated ability to work within deadlines
- High level communication and inter-personal skills, with a high degree of professionalism essential for dealing with external clients

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Applications are also encouraged from women.