POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Senior Research Technician
Organisation Unit: School of Biological Sciences
Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Full Time – Fixed Term
Classification: Hew Level 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.

The **Faculty of Science** is recognised as a powerhouse for some of the world’s leading scientists, teachers, science programs and commercial outcomes. The Faculty is one of the largest Science groupings in Australia, with approximately 1100 (equivalent full-time) staff, and about 7500 (equivalent full-time) students.

Throughout its Schools and Centres, the Faculty unites the disciplines of agriculture and animals, biomedical and biological sciences, chemistry, earth sciences, food sciences, geography, marine science, maths and physics, the environment and veterinary science.

With strong links between the enabling and applied sciences, UQ researchers and graduates are working on a wide range of groundbreaking projects from the molecular characterisation of drug resistant bacteria that affect piglets through to finding better treatments for illness and rehabilitation of the environment.

Information about the Faculty may be accessed on the Faculty’s web site: [http://www.science.uq.edu.au/](http://www.science.uq.edu.au/)

The **School of Biological Sciences** is part of the Faculty of Science and is one of the largest and most successful of its type in Australia, with 49 full-time academic staff, and over 200 enrolled PhD students. The School has broad expertise across ecology and evolution, molecular and quantitative genetics, paleobiology, developmental biology, behaviour, plant and animal physiology, and conservation biology. Our research programs involve a diverse array of taxa, ranging across microbes, animals and plants, including a particular focus in the areas of marine biology and entomology. Unique opportunities for biological research and teaching are provided by our proximity to a stunning array of marine and terrestrial subtropical habitats and their endemic biodiversity. A number of research programs in the School take advantage of major model-organism systems, including Drosophila, C. elegans, and Arabidopsis, and many include a strong quantitative and modelling focus.

Further information and details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s web site at [http://www.biology.uq.edu.au](http://www.biology.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](http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq)
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The successful appointee will conduct research into rapid evolution under novel environmental conditions in zebrafish. In addition to running large, multi-generational experiments, you will support research student projects, manage large, collaborative datasets, and support research through the maintenance of relevant equipment and consumable supplies.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Maintain zebrafish populations, including all aspects of husbandry and system maintenance
- Conduct experiments under the direction of supervisor
- Maintain and service all laboratory equipment
- Train students and researchers in fish husbandry, in the safe and correct operation of relevant equipment, and in general laboratory procedures.
- Ensure that OH&S procedures are appropriate, documented and are adhered to within the laboratory.
- Data entry, record keeping and curation of datasets.
- Maintain supplies of laboratory consumables, purchase new equipment and consumables as necessary.
- 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 Dr Katrina McGuigan, Senior Lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences and CI on the research project.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**

- Completion of a degree without subsequent relevant work experience or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Sound knowledge and understanding of fish husbandry.
- Sound knowledge of animal welfare considerations and ability to interpret and apply policies and procedures relevant to the animal care and protection act (2001)
- Sound knowledge of occupational health and safety issues, particularly those relevant to aquarium facilities
- Sound understanding of good experimental design practices
- Experience in managing research projects, and in curating large datasets.
- Experience with training students in safe laboratory practices.
- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate effectively with both postgraduate students and with more senior research personnel.
- Ability to prioritise own workload, work independently and meet deadlines.

**Desirable**

- BSc (hons) or equivalent in biological sciences
- Experience with software for digitising morphometric data, e.g., tpsDig or MorphoJ
- Experience with operating Loligo swim tunnels, including calibration

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.