POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Biological Sciences
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Fixed Term (2 Years), Full Time
Classification: Academic Level A (Research Focussed)

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.
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).

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](http://www.uq.edu.au) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

This position is supported by Australian Research Council funding to conduct research on the mechanisms by which sponges and bacteria work together to maintain productivity on coral reefs. The postdoctoral research fellow will be expected to take a leading role on those aspects of the project involving sponge eco-physiology, using the tropical marine sponge *Amphimedon queenslandica* that is a focal species in the Marine Genomics Lab led by Associate Professor Sandie Degnan and Professor Bernard Degnan. He/she will be part of a small team of researchers working on various aspects of the project, and will make substantial contributions to experimental design and research ideas, collection and analysis of data in field and laboratory, and the writing of papers. There will also opportunity to assist with the supervision of undergraduate, honours and PhD students working in the team.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Design, develop and implement field research on the ecophysiology of the *Amphimedon queenslandica* holobiont on Heron Reef, southern GBR
- Design and conduct aquarium-based experiments on the same species
- Analyse data sets
- Prepare and publish scientific papers of a standard suitable for high quality international journals
- Provide authoritative advice within area of specialisation
- Work with the CI and and postgraduate students to achieve the stated goals of the ARC-funded project

Administration

- Co-ordinate and liaise with the CI and students in both laboratory and field situations.
- Organise logistics for field work.
- 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 Associate Professor Sandie Degnan, CI in the Marine Genomics Lab.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in the area of sponge ecology or a similar discipline, with at least two years postdoctoral experience
- Demonstrated expert knowledge of nutrient cycling in sponges
- Strong demonstrated experience in marine field station and experimental aquaria work including in situ sponge sampling (e.g. vacuSIP), physiological measurements, and stable isotope tracer experiments
- Ability to prioritise own workload, exercise independent judgement and work independently while under sustained pressure to meet project deadlines
- Strong demonstrated organisational skills and attention to detail
- Demonstrated knowledge of management and analyses of ecophysiological datasets
- Excellent written and oral skills
- Strong publication record in relevant fields
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues, students and volunteers, with strong interpersonal skills

Desirable

- Demonstrated capacity to use high-level technical skills such as nanoSIMS, FISH, and EM
- Basic molecular skills with an interest in developing higher level skills in this area
- Experience in scientific diving
- Capacity to take up the position prior to 30 April 2018
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. Applications are also encouraged from women.

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