POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Full time, Fixed Term for 24 months.
Classification: 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 (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.

Organisational Environment

The School of Earth and Environmental Sciences is part of the Faculty of Science and is located on the St Lucia campus (Brisbane) of the University. It has 104 academic staff, and 23 administrative and technical staff. There is a large contingent of research appointments and the School has been active in establishing a range of adjunct positions in order to promote engagement with leaders in government and the professions.

SEES hosts world-class facilities which include a state-of-art planning studio, GIS computer laboratories, sample preparation facilities and a complex analytical infrastructure that includes radiogenic and stable isotopes, major and trace element geochemistry, noble gas geochemistry and geochronology, coal petrology and organic geochemistry, geomicrobiology and fluid inclusion facilities. (see https://sees.uq.edu.au/research/analytical-facilities for details).

A recently built geomicrobiology laboratory provides culturing facilities for aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms, including a coy anaerobic chamber, a photosynthetic growth chamber, fluorescence microscopy, and sample preparation for SEM and TEM analyses of bacteria-mineral interactions. In addition, the School maintains close links with the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, a Major National Research Facility that provides access to electron microscopes (SEMs and TEMs), electron microprobes, X-ray diffractometers, nano-SIMS, surface analysis capabilities, and a host of other modern analytical instrumentation.

Further information and details on the research interests of academic staff in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences can be found on the web at http://www.sees.uq.edu.au/.

National Science Environmental Programme

The scope of the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) is to deliver applied environmental science that informs Australian decision makers.

The Australian Government Department of the Environment manages the NESP. The NESP is delivered through multi-disciplinary research hubs, hosted by Australian research institutions.

Further information on the NESP can be viewed at the NESP website https://www.environment.gov.au/science/nesp.

Threatened Species Recovery Hub

The conservation of Australia’s rich and distinctive biodiversity should be secure or achievable relative to that of most other nations – we have relatively low human population density, vast areas of natural landscapes, a substantial conservation reserve system, stable governance, a relatively affluent and interested community, and good environmental legislation. Yet, Australia’s extinction rate is one of the worst in the world, and that rate of decline and loss is continuing unabated. This is the disconnect that this Hub seeks to resolve.
The Threatened Species Recovery (TSR) Hub is based on the premise that biodiversity decline and extinction in Australia can be understood, and remedied, and that this can be done in a manner that is cost-effective and that involves the community as informed and interested participants.

The $60 million TSR Hub is supported by funding from the Australian Government’s NESP, matched with contributions from 10 of the country’s leading academic institutions and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

It works closely with more than 100 collaborating organisations, including management agencies and non-government conservation groups, to ensure its research has an on-ground impact in threatened species management.

Further information on the TSR Hub can be at the Hub’s website www.nespthreatenedspecies.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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

To engage as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow within the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences to support The National Environmental Science Program’s Threatened Species Recovery Hub Project: “Evidence-based management protocols for recovery of multiple threatened woodland birds” led by Associate Professor Martine Maron.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Assist in coordination of the project “Evidence-based management protocols for recovery of multiple threatened woodland birds” and related work through the National Environmental Science Programme’s Threatened Species Recovery Hub.
- Design a monitoring program to complement existing monitoring of intervention sites across eastern Australia (primarily New South Wales) in order to evaluate how habitat condition and the woodland bird community respond to management interventions.
- Conduct field work involving the monitoring of birds and habitat in woodlands throughout eastern Australia, and arrange appropriate approvals.
- Collate data from a variety of sources and manage the database associated with the project.
- Interrogate large datasets to quantify the cost-effectiveness of different suites of conservation interventions for particular species and the woodland bird community in different locations and circumstances.
• Help organise and travel to project-related meetings as required.
• Contribute to the preparation of scientific papers and other research outputs.
• Assist in the development of research proposals for emerging grant opportunities.
• Make presentations and deliver project updates to working group members and the wider research community.
• Contribute to training, scientific mentoring and supervision of students.
• Develop effective timelines and milestones based on goals of the research and development program.
• Be responsible for and communicate this information to the Supervisor.
• Work effectively with other staff and students.

Service and Engagement

• Foster the School's relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
• Attend School based meetings and Seminars.
• 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 Martine Maron.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

• PhD in the area of applied ecology, spatial analysis, population modelling, environmental science or management, or environmental policy.
• Strong quantitative skills, an ability to conduct cost-effectiveness analyses, and experience with designing research projects that involve field-based environmental monitoring.
• Demonstrated experience in managing, analysing and curating multiple large datasets.
• Track record of high-quality publications in a related field.
• Experience in liaising and collaborating with external stakeholders and multiple research partners to achieve research outcomes.
• Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and stakeholders but also work independently and use initiative.

Desirable

• Experience conducting research in Australia’s woodland ecosystems.
• Experienced in survey methods for and identification of Australian birds.
• Familiarity with threatened species and key threatening process listing processes.

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.