POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Technical Officer

Organisation Unit: Office of the Director Gatton Campus – Queensland Animal Science Precinct

Position Number: 3025310

Type of Employment: Fixed Term, Full Time

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://uniest.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

In 1990, The University of Queensland merged with the Queensland Agricultural College, which saw the establishment of the University’s Gatton Campus. It hosts a number of degree programs in agricultural and veterinary sciences, in addition to research centres and a wide range of facilities to support teaching and research in agriculture and veterinary sciences. Engagement with the local community is a critical element of the philosophy and activities of the Campus. Effort to promote innovation on the Campus is another key feature of UQ Gatton, as is a focus on sustainability.

The Campus offers an extremely broad range of qualifications from vocational to undergraduate to postgraduate and research higher degrees. The programs delivered from the Campus are in disciplines such as agriculture, animals, agribusiness and veterinary science, involving issues such as climate change, feeding a growing population, biosecurity, and diminishing natural resources. As a result, UQ Gatton is a large and complex campus, predominantly a rural setting with working farms and dairy, as well as Halls of Residence, advanced research facilities and contemporary teaching spaces, from traditional lecture theatres to those designed to teach animal sciences.

The Office of the Director, Gatton Campus is responsible for ensuring the smooth and effective operations of the Gatton Campus of The University of Queensland, supporting academic teaching, research and community programs. The Director’s portfolio includes responsibility for the Gatton Dairy, Piggery, Equine Unit, Cropping Unit, Grazing Animal Unit, Queensland Animal Science Precinct, UQ-GVEC and the Halls of Residence in addition to administration functions and OH&S.

The Queensland Animal Science Precinct (QASP), on the Gatton Campus, is a jointly operated facility between the University of Queensland and the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The primary focus of QASP is as an animal health and production research facility conducting world-class research in the areas of animal growth, adaptation, welfare, health and vaccines. The facility provides state-of-the-art facilities for a number of scientists from the organizations conducting research at the facility.

QASP attracts national and international collaboration between scientists in the developed and developing world. It will also strengthen the interaction between researchers and industry and ensure research and development leads to rapid practical outcomes.

Information about QASP and the Gatton Campus may be accessed on the Gatton Campus web site at http://qasp.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
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The position is expected to service the requirements of research activities involving animal handling, the use of plant including machinery, chemicals and other materials and day to day operation of the QASP facility.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research Activities

- Operate in an intensive animal research facility, including daily feed management, animal welfare and handling and adhere to Standard Operating Procedures consistent with bio-secure and contained environments
- Provide technical expertise and under instruction from the Manager, actively participate in the planning, organising and support to the conduct of experimental aspects of research projects, across a range of animal species.
- Assume responsibility for the care and maintenance of equipment and experiments, including purchase of consumables, care of samples, collection, collation of samples and research data, including computer database management, and assistance in site resource maintenance.
- Assemble research equipment and prepare facilities such as penning systems for new projects and train project staff in the operation of facilities
- Communicate effectively with supervisors, project team members and collaborators, university staff and students to achieve project outcomes.
- Oversee at the support level project activities to ensure proper use of facilities and equipment with the awareness and adherence to WH&S and Government Agency guidelines.
- Actively participate as a member of the QASP multidisciplinary team, building effective working relationships with project team members, stakeholders and other university staff.
- In conjunction with the Manager oversee the staff and other resources and provide reports on the conduct of trials within the context of continuous improvement.

Finance and Administration

- Assist the Manager in the formulation of Service Level Agreements (SLA).
- Ensure that all data recording and reporting consistent with the conduct of the respective animal research, is undertaken ensuring that all H&S OGTR, DAgWR guidelines are met at the operational level.
- Provide advice to the Manager on the optimal use of resources and facilities for the conduct of animal research trials.
- Assist the Manager at the operational level with the inclusion of practical aspects of facility process control and management.
• Follow all protocols in relation to the practitioner aspects of the QASP Sustainability Program to ensure the welfare of staff, students, research animals and the environment.

• 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 QASP Manager
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Completion of an undergraduate degree or completion of an associate degree/diploma in a related field and at least 2 years subsequent relevant work experience or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Possess technical knowledge and skills to support large animal research projects within an intensive animal research facility
- Demonstrate practical knowledge of animal husbandry practices, animal welfare, management, bio-safety and biosecurity systems in animal containment facilities at the PC1 and PC2 levels, laboratory, and technical environments.
- Possess an understanding of the care and use of animals for scientific purposes and adherence to animal ethics guidelines.
- Demonstrated knowledge of laboratory practices including use of animal sampling equipment; animal handling methods; acquiring, preparing and presenting biological material and decontamination and sterilizing processes.
- Competence in data recording and the use of computer hardware and a range of software including the use of the Microsoft Office suite.
- Experience in a broad range of livestock, large and small animal research, in the handling of research animals, collection, processing, storing and recording of research samples within established guidelines.
- Experience in the application of health and safety practices in an animal research environment.
- Practical knowledge and competencies in the use of plant and machinery and where necessary the possession or capability to possess the required permits for the use of tractors, forklifts and other heavy machinery.
- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate effectively with work colleagues, researchers and post graduate students.
- Ability to work well as an individual and as a member of a team with minimal supervision.
- Ability to prioritise own workload, work independently and meet deadlines.
- Possession of a current Queensland C Class Licence
- Possession of plant operation certification or the ability to acquire certification would be advantageous.

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.