POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Senior Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences
Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Fixed-term, part-time (29 hours per week) for 15 months
Classification: HEW Level 7

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.

**Faculty of Science**

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/)

**School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences**

The School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences (SCMB) combines the disciplines of Chemistry, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Parasitology into a single academic unit. The School has modern research laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and research infrastructure. The School includes over 50 academic staff, who are widely published internationally and have extensive research backgrounds. Information about the School and research interests of academic staff may be found on the web site [http://www.scmb.uq.edu.au.](http://www.scmb.uq.edu.au.)

Further information and details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s web site at [http://www.scmb.uq.edu.au/](http://www.scmb.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**

This position will develop and deliver an online resource that helps students learn how to better communicate science in consultation with Academic staff in the Faculty of Science. The position will be responsible for liaising with employers of science graduates within the University community and industry, and will work on a Teaching Innovation Grant titled ‘CLIPS: Communication learning in practice for scientists’.
Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Investigate and use tools, technologies, and resources to develop learning modules delivered through Blackboard and online (through Wordpress).
- Prepare communication-related material for online resources.
- Curate a highly customised Blackboard site and Wordpress site using CSS, HTML and JavaScript. This includes modifying and maintaining plugins and themes, and ensuring that system upgrades do not adversely affect the sites.
- Conduct interviews and liaise with potential employers of science graduates; parties include but are not limited to staff in the education sector, government, and industry.
- Critically analyse current communication research and resources and identify best practice for communication within the sciences.
- Research, design, develop, and deliver learning activities that relate to communication for work in the sciences. These will include audio and video resources that will be recorded and edited by the successful applicant.
- Plan, script, and create short animated educational items using Adobe programs, including After Effects, Illustrator, Photoshop, Premiere, and Audition.
- Extract, analyse, and present user data from the Blackboard LMS and Google Analytics.
- Provide documentation and assistance to CLIPS resource users, respond to enquiries, and troubleshoot user experience issues.
- Analyse less complex user and system requirements.
- 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 Susan Rowland, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, University of Queensland, St Lucia campus.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**

- Bachelor’s degree with at least four years subsequent relevant experience in a science field, or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Demonstrated experience in learning management systems and demonstrated skills in information and communication technologies.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively with colleagues, with the ability to conduct and record informational interviews with industry professionals.
- Ability to work with scientific, mathematical, and chemical notation.
- Current open driver’s licence for travelling to film and interview locations in South-East Queensland.
- Ability to create and manipulate audio and video resources for upload to an online Learning Management System.
- Ability to design, develop and maintain sites for Wordpress and Blackboard, using CSS, HTML, and JavaScript.
- Ability to produce animated educational resources using Adobe programs, including After Effects, Illustrator, Photoshop, Premiere, and Audition.
- Excellent written English and graphical presentation skills.
- High level of attention to detail, particularly with regards to English grammar and scientific notation.

**Desirable**

- Experience and/or qualifications in learning design, with the ability to curate social media feeds on multiple platforms.
- Experience organising and facilitating workshops.
- Tertiary qualifications that include units of scientific content.
- A developed personal network of science-related employers.

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.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.