POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant

Organisation Unit: The Clem Jones Centre for Dementia Research, Queensland Brain Institute

Position Number: 3028080

Type of Employment: Fixed term, full time for 12 months

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.

QUEENSLAND BRAIN INSTITUTE

Established in 2003, QBI (www.qbi.uq.edu.au) is housed on the St Lucia campus of UQ. It is home to more than 450 staff and students, including 41 group leaders, working across a range of disciplines, focused on discovering the fundamental mechanisms that regulate brain development and function in health and disease.

Over the past decade QBI has become known as one of the world’s leading neuroscience research institutes. It played a key role in contributing to UQ attaining the highest possible score of 5 for neuroscience, in both the 2010, 2012, and 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews, one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

Synaptic Neurobiology Group - The Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research

The aim of this group (led by Dr. Victor Anggono) is to unravel the cellular and molecular mechanisms of neuronal communication in order to understand physiological phenomena such as synaptic plasticity, learning, memory and neurological disorders. The lab uses biochemical, molecular biology and cell imaging approaches to study the trafficking of glutamate receptors in neurons and its underlying mechanisms of regulation, including post-translational modifications and protein-protein interactions. For more information on the lab please visit the website http://www.anggonolab.org

Working with Animals

Working with laboratory animals is an inherent requirement of some positions. Appointment to these positions may therefore be subject to, and conditional upon, satisfactory medical clearance(s) (including disclosure of relevant medical history) to undertake such work without unreasonable risk to your health and to fully comply with necessary ongoing health monitoring procedures and control measures associated with the position.

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

We are seeking a highly motivated Research Assistant to join our team. The successful applicant will have a strong background in molecular biology, protein biochemistry and/or cell biology. The primary role of this position is to provide research support to projects examining
the molecular mechanisms of synaptic plasticity through *in vitro* and mouse models. The candidate will contribute to the efficient day-to-day operation of the laboratory.

**Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Undertake a variety of molecular biology research techniques, including cloning, DNA/RNA/protein extraction, Western blotting and immunoprecipitation assay
- Perform tissue culture, including isolation of primary neuronal cultures from mouse/rat embryos
- Production of lentiviral and adeno-associated virus particles
- Perform cell based assays, immunostaining and imaging (live-cell imaging and confocal)
- Assist with mouse breeding, colony maintenance and behavioural assays
- Assist with data management and analysis, including computational and statistical analyses
- General lab maintenance and ordering
- Other duties as directed by supervisor

**Other**

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including:

- 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 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 Dr. Victor Anggono (v.anggono@uq.edu.au).

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Essential**

- BSc (Hons)/Masters in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry or Cell Biology with relevant work related experience.
- Knowledge and understanding of molecular and cellular biology.
- Basic biochemistry and molecular biology techniques.
- Demonstrated experience in undertaking research projects within a team environment.
• Demonstrated experience in the recording and analysis of research results
• Data management, analysis and presentation skills.

Desirable

• Experience in immunostaining and fluorescence microscopy.
• Experience in protein extraction, immunoprecipitation and western blotting.
• Experience in mammalian cell culture technique.
• Experience in animal handling (rodent).
• Demonstrated high level written and interpersonal communication skills.

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.