POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number: 3041579
Type of Employment: Full time, fixed term up to 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://uniqquest.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

Established in 2003, QBI (www.qbi.uq.edu.au) is housed on the St Lucia campus of UQ. It is home to more than 400 staff, including 34 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 positioned itself 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 and 2012 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews, one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

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 Bartlett Laboratory at QBI is interested in understanding the mechanisms controlling endogenous stem cell activation and neurogenesis. We have a particular interest in determining the mechanisms responsible for improving learning and memory following physical exercise in aged animals. We are currently examining neurotrophic factors, biochemical markers, and testing pharmacological approaches to improve learning and memory in aged animal models, with a view to improving cognitive function in patients with neurodegenerative diseases such as ageing dementia. The primary purpose of this Research Assistant position is to be involved in conducting experiments addressing the core research of the laboratory. In addition, the Research Assistant will provide assistance to other laboratory team members as directed by the Head of the Laboratory and to perform routine administrative duties.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Immunocytochemistry, histology, sectioning of tissue;
- Animal handling, perfusions, minor animal surgery and dissections;
- Animal behavioural testing;
- Cell culture (primary neural cultures, explant cultures);
- Molecular biology including PCR, RNA isolation and microarray techniques;
- Western blotting and immunoprecipitations;
- ELISAs – biochemistry;
Perform routine administrative procedures such as ordering and unpacking consumables, overseeing of laboratory jobs performed by other team lab members, be responsible for keeping of laboratory records for reagents, animals, and MSDS records, signing of laboratory notebooks, and general tidiness and laboratory cleanliness.

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 Professor Perry Bartlett.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- BSc (Hons) with subsequent relevant experience; or extensive experience and specialist expertise and/or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training;
- Experience with cell biology techniques;
- Extensive animal handling experience;
- Experience with histological techniques;
- Ability to work independently with limited supervision;
- Ability to manage time effectively under conflicting demands;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Attention to detail and a methodical but expeditious approach to research work;
- Ability to work responsibly, accurately and independently after basic training in techniques;
• Ability to interpret experimental data to plan subsequent experiments and trouble shoot techniques;

• Demonstrated ability to undertake experiments using a range of techniques;

• Ability to bring the work to completion so as to obtain publishable results;

• Experience in animal behavioural testing;

• Experience with molecular biology techniques;

• Experience with biochemistry techniques.

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.