POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant - Pig and poultry nutrition specialist
Organisation Unit: Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Position Number: TBC
Type of Employment: Part-time, fixed term for 1 year
Classification: HEW Level 6

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 well within the top 100 universities worldwide, measured through a number of major independent university rankings: the Academic Ranking of World Universities, Times Higher Education World University Rankings, US News Best Global Universities Rankings, QS World University Rankings and Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, and is indeed in the top 50 in some of these rankings. In 2013, UQ attracted more Australian Research Council funding than any other Australian university or research body.

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 Australian Teaching and Learning Council Awards for Teaching Excellence 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, and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities. UQ is also the largest university in Queensland.

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 215,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.6 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.

**Organisational Environment**

The Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) is a research institute of the University of Queensland (UQ) which was established in 2010 and comprises of three research centres – the Centre for Plant Science, the Centre for Animal Science, the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences.

QAAFI’s team of 450 researchers, postgraduate students and support staff undertake high impact science for agriculture and food industries. The institute’s strong partnership with the Queensland Government provides our researchers with a direct link to the agriculture industry in Queensland, and world class field research facilities throughout Queensland. Agriculture is one of UQ’s highest ranked research fields nationally and internationally and QAAFI is a global leader in agricultural research in subtropical and tropical production systems.

QAAFI scientists are driven to make a difference to the agriculture and food industries and have over 150 collaborators worldwide.

Details of the research interests of the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s web site at [http://www.qaafi.uq.edu.au](http://www.qaafi.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)

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](http://www.uq.edu.au) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

**DUTY STATEMENT**

**Primary Purpose of Position**

This role will help A/Prof Eugeni Roura and PhD/Master students of the Roura research group to plan and conduct research projects, most of them involving animal trials. The group’s main focus relevant to this position relates to strategies to improve feed intake in pigs and poultry by means of identifying nutritional compounds and their chemosensing mechanisms that modulate appetite in these species.

The role will involve working in different UQ campuses (mainly St Lucia, Coopers Plains, Gatton and Herston) and other research centers outside of the University (partner research farms and abattoirs). The job holder will be managing or assisting across the different stages of research projects, including project/research proposals, animal ethics applications, annual/final reports to funding bodies, experimental protocols, team management regarding animal trials, on site (hands on) animal agistment and animal performance and health measurements, data collection and statistical analysis, as well as providing continuous feedback to the team leader and students over the life of the project. In addition, the job holder will have a fundamental role liaising with funding bodies and industry sponsors and preparing scientific manuscripts for publication.
In the role, you will work within a team of scientists and students but also with producers and other industry partners. You will be expected to support other scientists as well as PhD/Master students working in the group.

**Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Research**

- Assist in identifying potential project proposals for relevant funding schemes calls in accordance with the research group objectives.
- Assist in the design of projects proposals, the design of experimental trials and protocols writing.
- Assist in the obtention of ethics clearances related both human and animal projects for the group.
- Organize the research facilities according to the protocol/s of the project.
- Collect performance and nutritional measurements and conduct health assessments as required for complete data collection.
- Assist with management of the data from these collections, and writing of the technical reports associates with the trials.
- Perform analysis of the data and data preparation for technical or peer-reviewed publications.
- Providing continuous feedback to the team leader over the life of the project.
- Assist with writing high quality research papers suitable for publication in international journals
- Assist in the supervision and training of research higher degree students
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of future research projects.

**Service and Engagement**

- Foster the Centre’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- 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:

- 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 the Principal Research Fellow.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
• Hold a degree in animal nutrition/science
• Experience of at least 3 years conducting pig AND poultry nutrition research projects;
• Experience of not less than 3 years collaborating with the farm animal industry (preferably pig and poultry);
• Proven knowledge in animal pathology/immunology;
• Demonstrated ability to write and review scientific papers as well as technical reports;
• Experience in advisory roles for post-graduate students;
• Car driver's licence;
• Experience in laboratory management
• Strong written and oral communication skills in English

Desirable
• Having experience in a similar position
• A PhD degree
• A bachelors degree in Veterinary Science or similar
• Team player, ability to work collaboratively with colleagues
• Experience with coordinating large scale data collection
• Have experience in managing portfolio budgets

The University of Queensland is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.