POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Biostatistician
Organisation Unit: QFAB Bioinformatics - Institute for Molecular Bioscience
Position Number:
Type of Employment: Full time or Part time, Fixed term
Classification: Hew Level 6 to 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.

Organisational Environment

QFAB Bioinformatics is a leading provider of bioinformatics, biostatistics and biodata services for life science and clinical researchers. Working closely with researchers, the QFAB Team members apply data management, integration, analysis and visualisation techniques to maximise the potential value of large-scale biological and clinical datasets.

QFAB is the consulting branch of QCIF, a non-for-profit public company whose members are six Queensland-based universities. This position will be hosted by the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) at The University of Queensland.

The University of Queensland’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) is a leading global life sciences research institute committed to improving quality of life through research. IMB was established in 2000 as UQ’s first research institute and is the cornerstone of one of the largest bioscience research precincts in Australia.

The Institute is home to more than 450 researchers, postgraduate students and support staff from more than 40 countries who work in partnership with their academic, industry and clinical colleagues around the world to advance knowledge in areas including pain, rare diseases, inflammation, superbug infection, cardiovascular disease, environmental research, drug discovery and development, cancer, diabetes and obesity, and reproductive health. Our mission is to drive the bioeconomy and create better health; our vision is to be a life sciences institute with global impact.

Details of QFAB Bioinformatics services and IMB research interests may be accessed on the QFAB website at http://qfab.org and the IMB website at: http://www.imb.uq.edu.au

Information for Prospective Staff

The Institute recognises and values equity and diversity, and encourages applications from any individual who meets the requirements of this position irrespective of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age or other protected attributes.

IMB strives to provide an inclusive working environment, and along with the University is committed to supporting staff with family and caring responsibilities by providing policies, programs and initiatives to help balance work and family responsibilities.

Specific initiatives at IMB can be found at (http://www.imb.uq.edu.au/equity-and-diversity)

Further 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

Working at the interface of molecular biology, medicine and statistics, this position offers an outstanding opportunity to work with leading clinicians and scientists and contribute to cutting-edge research projects in the biological, environmental and medical sciences.

The types of analysis include but are not limited to:

- Exploratory statistical analysis and data mining.
- Statistical consulting for clinicians and researchers for basic and high level aspects of their research.
- Clinical trial design and analysis.
- Experimental design.
- Analysis and interpretation of high-dimensional biological data.

The position involves identifying and gathering analysis requirements from a wide range of life science and clinical researchers and delivering efficient statistical solutions to meet their research outcomes. A high degree of autonomy and professionalism is required to represent QFAB on partners’ premises.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Provide expertise in the design and analysis of biological and clinical projects.
- Perform analysis of high-throughput omics datasets, including multi-omics analysis.
- Consult with researchers to understand their research questions and provide necessary biostatistics support required to meet their research goals.
- Assist with project management and project proposal development.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of training programs.
- Where appropriate report research results to the scientific community via reports, posters, papers and presentations.
- Where appropriate, supervision or shared supervision of other staff, interns and/or students in relevant projects.
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 Dominique Gorse, Director QFAB Bioinformatics
SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications

**Essential**

- A Masters or PhD degree in statistics or closely related quantitative discipline with significant experience as a biostatistician.
- Considerable (3-5 years) experience in providing statistical expertise in life sciences and medical research.

Knowledge and Skills

**Essential**

- Demonstrated expert knowledge in the area of medical biostatistics in relation to clinical and health services research including design and analysis of clinical trials and longitudinal datasets.
- Ability to communicate with clinicians and scientists to understand their needs.
- Demonstrated expertise in statistical analysis of biological data, particularly from high throughput platforms such as microarrays, sequencing, proteomics and metabolomics profiling.
- Demonstrated expertise in the use of R, SPSS or other statistical environments.
- Demonstrated understanding of biological processes, themes and their interpretation in various molecular biology settings.
- Ability to relate to a wide range of scientific research and medical disciplines.
- Experience with grant writing and publishing.

**Desirable**

- Knowledge of project management methodologies.
- Experience with managing customer relationships.

Personal Qualities

- High level of personal motivation and initiative.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Proactive in your approach to work, able to seek out answers and to work with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrated commitment to client service and continuous improvement.
- Demonstrated commitment to personal and professional development.
- Professionalism and integrity.
- Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.
- Capacity to embrace novel ideas.
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 or part-time position; flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

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