POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Officer
Organisation Unit: Institute for Molecular Bioscience
Position Number: 3041227
Type of Employment: Fixed Term, Full time
Classification: Research Academic Level A

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

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.

By investigating how we grow and develop at the genetic, molecular, cellular and organ levels, IMB researchers can better understand the development processes and pathways involved in human and animal health and disease. The institute also has the technical capacity to translate its new knowledge into drugs, diagnostics and technologies to more effectively prevent, detect and treat disease; and pursue opportunities in a range of biotechnology applications for health, industry and the environment.

IMB’s research outcomes are protected and commercialised by UQ-owned technology transfer group UniQuest.

Details of the research interests of the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s website at: https://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 (https://imb.uq.edu.au/about/equity-and-diversity-imb)

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

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

Protagonist Therapeutics is seeking a talented and highly motivated scientist to be involved in its broad discovery efforts utilising their experience in Medicinal and Peptide chemistry. The individual will be involved in the company’s target-specific drug discovery efforts through the synthesis and biochemical analysis of compounds directed at clinically relevant targets. The successful candidate will ideally have strong peptide and organic chemistry background with both solution and solid phase experience. The candidate will ideally have a PhD although someone with experience will also be accepted. Experience with strong bioanalytical methods (LC MSMS) will be looked upon favourably. The position is based in Brisbane, Australia.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Synthesis of Peptides and Organic Compounds
- Analysis of compounds by HPLC and Mass Spectroscopy
- Preparation of reports
- Presentation of results in project meetings
- Bio analytical methods (LC-MS-MS) methods

Administration

- Perform a range of administrative functions in the Group
- Attend research meetings
- Maintaining up-to-date lab books
- 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 the Senior Research Officer, Dr Gregory Bourne.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

• A Bachelor of Science (Hons) or Ph.D. degree or similar in an appropriate area of chemistry, biological chemistry or; an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or training.
• Proficient in "Wet" Chemistry : Organic and Peptide chemistry
• Understand the principles of SAR optimisation and to apply them to lead optimisation
• Experience with different techniques of purification and identification including semi-prep HPLC and Mass Spectrometry.
• Computer literacy including experience with standard office software (word-processing, spreadsheet, graphics etc).
• Demonstrated ability in report writing, record keeping, and presentation of research results.
• Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues in a highly interactive team environment with a flexible approach to goal delivery
• Ability to work in an efficient and well organized manner with minimal supervision
• Ability to adhere to specific work schedules and meet deadlines
• Excellent written and verbal communication skills
• Excellent interpersonal skills
• Sound problem solving skills

Desirable

• Industrial research experience
• Experience working in a lab environment on research projects with milestones
• Experience in solid phase synthesis, high throughput purification techniques and related analytical technologies
• Strong bioanalytical experience

Qualification Verification

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.
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 position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

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