POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Fellow
Organisation Unit: Child Health Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine
Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Part-time, Fixed Term
Classification: Research Academic Level B

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 (45), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (51), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index; and secured a greater share of Australian Research Council grants in 2016 ($24.5 million) than any other university nationally.

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 230,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.7 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 will have further success in this area as an important strategic aim going forward.

Organisational Environment

UQ Child Health Research Centre

Established in 2015, the UQ Child Health Research Centre (UQ-CHRC) brings together some of UQ’s leading researchers to tackle global challenges in child and adolescent health. With research in nutrition and growth, respiratory disease, allied health, environmental health, burns, infectious diseases, cerebral palsy, rehabilitation and child and youth mental health and more, the centre is making a difference to the health of children everywhere. The UQ-CHRC is co-located with research centres from Children’s Health Queensland and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in the recently completed Centre for Children’s Health Research (CCHR), a $134 million purpose-built research facility adjacent to the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital.

Information relating to the activities of CHRC may be found at https://child-health-research.centre.uq.edu.au/.

Faculty of Medicine

The University of Queensland’s Faculty of Medicine is an internationally recognised provider of world-class education and research. The research-intensive Faculty has a gross budget of almost $300 million, employs approximately 1000 continuing and fixed-term staff (headcount), has a community of more than 4000 non-salaried academic appointees and around 3200 students (headcount).

The Faculty of Medicine offers Australia’s largest medical degree program for graduates and school-leavers. Undergraduate and postgraduate programs are available in the disciplines of Medicine, Health Sciences, E-Health, Mental Health, Biomedical Sciences and Public Health.

The Faculty possesses enormous strengths spanning research, teaching, industry engagement and clinical practice in disciplines ranging from the basic sciences, biomedical research and development, to clinical trials and public health. Research projects within the Faculty have already led to discoveries with far-reaching social and economic impacts, including the revolutionary Gardasil (TM) vaccine for cervical cancer (Professor Ian Frazer) and a drug discovery EMA401 (Professor Maree Smith), a first-in-class oral treatment for chronic pain which through Spinafex Pharmaceuticals led to Australia’s largest biotechnology commercialisation deal. Faculty staff include three highly cited authors, one Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), three Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science (FAA) and 12 Fellows of the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). The Faculty is a core member of Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners, the Brisbane-wide academic health science system.

Educational offerings in biomedical sciences, medicine and public health are informed and supported by research activity across a range of fundamental and clinical areas of importance including recognised strengths in cancer, skin diseases, brain and mental health, maternal and child health and genomics. Cutting-edge facilities such as the Herston Imaging
Research Facility (HIRF), the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR), our laboratories in the Translational Research Institute (TRI) and the new Centre for Children’s Health Research (CCHR) enable outstanding research outcomes and sharpen our understanding of cancer, autoimmunity, mental disorders, infectious diseases and neurological disease. Further details are available at www.medicine.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

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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The recruited Postdoctoral Fellow will join the project CAPICE: “Childhood and Adolescence Psychopathology: unravelling the complex etiology by a large Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Europe”. This project is funded as an EU Marie-Curie International Training Network grant. In this ambitious and inspiring network, 12 Early Stage Researchers (PhD-level training) will be trained in the broad field of psychiatric genomics. Analyses will be performed in large international collaborations, making use of the wealth of data available across birth and adolescent cohorts over the world.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will be involved in two PhD projects which aim to increase knowledge on genetic risk factors for internalizing problems and for comorbidity in childhood psychopathology. The preferred candidate will be part of the daily supervisory team. Analyses will include genome-wide association meta-analyses allowing for age-specific effects as well as effects that are stable across childhood and adolescence. Polygenic analyses, such as polygenic risk score analyses, genetic relatedness matrix restricted maximum likelihood (GREML) and LD score regression in which the joint effect of the genetic variants across the genome are investigated, will be used to unravel the interplay with other risk factors.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will further support the management of the CAPICE project. The projects will be performed in a close collaboration between the department of Biological Psychology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Child Health Research Centre, University of Queensland. Christel Middeldorp, Professor in Child&Youth Psychiatry, UQ, is one of the supervisors of the PhD students. Since the PhD students will spend most of their time in Amsterdam, the postdoctoral fellow will also work the majority of the time in Amsterdam, together with Prof. Meike Bartels. The postdoctoral fellow will also participate in the teaching program.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Contribute to the CAPICE project by supervising the PhD students and developing and initiating new statistical methods to analyse the multivariate and longitudinal data.
- Contribute to research input/output by assisting with grant funding applications and publishing in high quality outlets.
• Collaborate with the other researchers involved in CAPICE to facilitate cross-site analyses.
• Play a primary role in manuscript preparation.
• Presentation of results in department meetings, national and international conferences.
• Displaying a work ethic expected for a researcher aspiring to a career in science.

Service and Engagement
• Teach in undergraduate or graduate courses
• 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 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 Professor Child and Youth Psychiatry.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
• PhD in the area of statistical genetics/ bioinformatics or closely related field
• Demonstrated expert knowledge in large scale genome-wide association analyses/ meta-analyses and other polygenic analyses or analyses with a comparable level of complexity, such as gene expression level data or metabolomics data analyses.
• An ability to establish effective relationships and to represent and promote academic discipline at a university and wider community level.
• Evidence of a contribution to research, including publications in international peer-reviewed journals as a first, second or senior author
• Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.

Desirable
• Experience with student supervision
Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.

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.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For further information please contact our Australian Indigenous Employment Coordinator at: atsi_recruitment@uq.edu.au

Applications are also encouraged from women.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.