



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow/Research Fellow
Organisation Unit:	Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number:	NEW
Type of Employment:	Full Time, Fixed Term, for 12 months
Classification:	Academic Research Level A or B - Level of appointment will be commensurate with qualifications, skills, experience and academic achievements.

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.

QUEENSLAND BRAIN INSTITUTE

Established in 2003, QBI (www.qbi.uq.edu.au) is housed on the St Lucia campus of UQ. It is home to more than 450 staff and students, including 41 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 become known 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, 2012, and 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews, one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

Working with Animals

Working with laboratory animals is an inherent requirement of some positions. Appointment to these positions may therefore be subject to, and conditional upon, satisfactory medical clearance(s) (including disclosure of relevant medical history) to undertake such work without unreasonable risk to your health and to fully comply with necessary ongoing health monitoring procedures and control measures associated with the position.

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 candidate will lead projects to evaluate novel immune-based targets for Alzheimer's disease. The candidate must have hands on experience in stereotactic surgeries, behavioural testing, brain microdissection, microscopy (stereology, confocal and/or 2-photon) and western blot analysis. Some experience with organotypic slice culture, primary neuronal and glial cell cultures and iPSc cells would be desirable. This position will be responsible for experimental design, data analyses, and manuscript preparation, and will also be expected to apply for both independent and collaborative funding to support their research focus.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct research to further understanding of Alzheimer's disease.
- Publish high quality papers and contribute to the disciplined academic environment of the laboratory and the institute.
- Apply for both independent and collaborative research funding.
- Acquire and maintain familiarity with relevant scientific literature and contribute to the academic environment of the laboratory and institute.
- Present results of research at meetings at all levels – laboratory, institutional, national and international as appropriate.
- Contribute to safe laboratory working environment.
- Contribute to supervision of junior members and students within the laboratory and to the smooth running of the laboratory.

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 Senior Research Fellow, Dr Rodrigo Medeiros

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in the area of neuroscience, immunology, molecular biology or relevant discipline.
- Extensive experience in;
 - animal models of learning and memory (i.e. Morris water maze, contextual fear conditioning, open field);
 - animal stereotaxic surgery and intracranial injection;
 - drug administration per oral, intraperitoneal and intravenous routes;
 - animal perfusion and brain microdissection (i.e., dissection of hippocampus, cortex, etc);
 - sectioning brain tissue, histological techniques, light and confocal microscopy;
 - protein and RNA extraction from brain tissue and
 - western blot and quantitative RT-PCR;
- Demonstrated ability to work with limited supervision and 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 troubleshoot techniques;
- Ability to bring the work to completion so as to obtain publishable results.

Desirable

- Experience in preparing and maintaining mouse primary neuronal and glial cell cultures;
- Experience with inducible pluripotent stem cells.

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview will 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 is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. Employment opportunities are not limited by race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age, sexuality, gender or other protected attributes. Applications are encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For further information please contact our Indigenous Employment Coordinator at: atsi_recruitment@uq.edu.au