

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Position Title:</b>	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Timber Durability
<b>Organisation Unit:</b>	School of Civil Engineering
<b>Position Number:</b>	NEW
<b>Type of Employment:</b>	Full-Time, Fixed Term for 3 years
<b>Classification:</b>	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 (60). 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://uniquet.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 School of Civil Engineering is one of the largest schools of its kind in Australia. Located in the state-of-the-art, \$135 million Advanced Engineering Building, the School passionately delivers world-leading teaching, research, and service. We aspire to be the civil engineering school of choice for students, staff, industry, and the wider community in the fields of water, environmental, geotechnical, structural and transportation engineering.

Our goal is to foster graduates with the technical and professional skills required to lead the civil engineering profession and we aim to re-engineer civil and environmental research to improve the way communities operate and function.

Our academic staff hail from over 24 countries, are widely published and cited, and have extensive research backgrounds in diverse engineering disciplines including coastal, environmental, fire safety, geotechnical, hydraulics, structural, transport, and water resources. These research strengths attract expert academics and students from around the world and provide industry with consulting expertise, research collaboration and testing facilities.

Our people are our greatest asset. We offer collaborative, inclusive work and study places, which are enriched by the significant diversity of our staff, students and community. We genuinely believe that creativity and innovation flourishes in an environment where people feel supported, valued and empowered. Mutual respect, inclusivity and accountability are at the cornerstone of UQ's culture.

The School is committed to supporting the career growth of women researchers and have a number of initiatives to support women in developing and achieving a fulfilling research career at the School.

The School has an agreed set of values that include:

1. Respecting each other.
2. Embracing equity and diversity.
3. Making decisions transparently whenever possible.
4. Collaborating across disciplines and universities.
5. Supporting each other.
6. Being accountable and responsible.
7. Seeking first to understand then be understood.
8. Making positive and meaningful societal contributions.
9. Celebrating achievement.

For more information about the School, please visit: [www.civil.uq.edu.au](http://www.civil.uq.edu.au)

## **Information for Prospective Staff**

The School 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. The School 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.

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**

The primary purpose of the position is to lead research linking timber durability and timber structural performance. The candidate will be in charge of leading research projects investigating the effects of moisture and biological effects in timber structures, including

structural performance and timber connections among others. This research will require developing a deep understanding of timber durability including moisture and biological considerations and their effects on structural performance of timber buildings. The candidate is expected to work in close collaboration with researchers in the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, the University of Queensland Centre for Future Timber Structures, and the Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Research Hub- Future Timber Hub. The position will require the formulation of research projects, supervision of research projects including MS and PhD students. The position will also involve manuscript writing and occasional administrative support duties. The selected candidate is also expected to help pursue funding opportunities for the long-term continuation of this line of research.

## **Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

### **Research**

- Support a research program in the area of timber durability including moisture and biological effects
- Assist in the establishment of an independent research portfolio linking wood science, timber durability and structural performance
- Publish scholarly papers related to this research area in high quality outlets
- Expand the research programme including external funding
- Collaborate with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint further research projects

### **Teaching and Learning**

- As a 'Research focussed' position, there is no formal requirement for undergraduate teaching. However, it is strongly encouraged that you actively seek teaching opportunities.
- Contribute to supervision at honours and postgraduate level and participate in events to attract postgraduate students.

### **Service and Engagement**

- Perform a range of administrative functions in the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life
- Contribute to the processes that enable the academic team to manage the research group, including participation in staff team meetings, decision-making and participation in committees
- Foster 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 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 A/Prof Dilum Fernando.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### Essential

- PhD (or progress towards PhD) in the field of Wood Science & Engineering, Chemical Engineering or Civil Engineering with a background in timber structures or closely related field
- Demonstrated knowledge in one or more of the following areas: wood science, wood treatment and modification techniques, timber construction, timber structures
- Demonstrated leadership in research projects and evidence of contribution to research including an ability to write scientific articles
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- An effective ability to time manage and prioritise demands.
- High attention to detail and a methodical but expeditious approach to research work
- Demonstrated ability to work independently as well as collaboratively with colleagues and research students, including those from different disciplines, as well as with administrative and technical staff
- Ability to promote the School's activities within the University and the external community.
- A high level of drive and enthusiasm

### Desirable

- Developed research in timber durability related to moisture and biological effects
- Demonstrated laboratory experience in the application of treatments and modification to timber and methods
- Knowledge about the processing and manufacturing of engineered wood products (EWP's) such as cross-laminated timber (CLT), laminated veneer lumber (LVL), glulam, etc.
- Developed industry liaisons and professional contacts
- Experience in liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop co-operative research initiatives

### **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](mailto: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.**