

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Position Title:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>Organisation Unit:</b>	UQ Diamantina Institute, Faculty of Medicine
<b>Position Number:</b>	3038880
<b>Type of Employment:</b>	Full time, fixed term for one year
<b>Classification:</b>	HEW Level 6

## 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 CWTS Leiden Ranking (32), the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (40), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (54), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (66). Excluding the award component, UQ is now ranked 45<sup>th</sup> in the world in the ARWU, and is one of the only two Australian universities to be included in the global top 50.

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 53,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 17,000 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 260,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a \$2.15 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+.

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

## **Organisational Environment**

### **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 Spinifex 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](http://www.medicine.uq.edu.au).

### **The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute**

The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute (UQDI) was established in 2007 and forms a major research centre within the Faculty of Medicine. The aim of the Institute is to develop a better understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of disease, and to translate that understanding into practical outcomes for patients. Based at the Translational Research Institute (TRI) at the Princess Alexandra Hospital teaching campus in Brisbane, UQDI has more than 300 researchers, clinical academics and students who work closely

with hospital clinicians in the areas of cancer, immunology, genomics and other areas of translational medicine. UQDI has particular research strengths in skin cancer, cancer cell biology, cancer immunotherapy, vaccine development and nanotechnology, autoimmunity and the genetic basis of disease.

UQDI has a mission of translating discoveries into better treatments and has a strong record of achievement, most notably in the development of cancer therapies: research at UQDI by Professor Ian Frazer AC FRS led to the development of the cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil. UQDI is the largest partner in the TRI, which is an extremely well-equipped translational biomedical research institute, with outstanding laboratories and core facilities for tissue imaging, microscopy, flow-cytometry, proteomics and *in vivo* models of disease. Its close affiliation with clinical units at Princess Alexandra Hospital provides UQDI with a significant strategic advantage in near-patient, translational research.

Details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the Institute's web site at at <http://www.di.uq.edu.au/research>.

### **Information for Prospective Staff**

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is [available online](#).

## **DUTY STATEMENT**

### **Primary Purpose of Position**

The primary purpose of this position is to conduct, as a member of a team, quality research in skin cancer, using a variety of *in vitro* and *in vivo* techniques. The appointee will work under the supervision of Professor Ian Frazer, and will also be expected to assist higher degree students.

### **Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Contribute to the conduct quality research into the association between bacterial and viral infections and skin cancer development, using a variety of molecular, cellular and immunological approaches
- Conduct experimental investigations under the guidance of academic staff from the group, and provide technical assistance to students and staff
- Maintain clear laboratory records, and analyse data using statistical and graphics programs
- Contribute to the smooth running of the laboratory, including supervision and training of junior members and students of the laboratory
- Assist in the conduct of experiments including preparation, sampling, data collection and analysis and preparation of results and reports
- Assist in maintenance of laboratory equipment, stock reagents and accurate documentation
- 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 Professor Ian Frazer.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- An honours degree in the biological sciences or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training
- At least two years of practical laboratory experience in working with human or animal tissues using molecular and/or cellular biology techniques
- A demonstrated understanding of workplace health and safety as it applies to a biological research laboratory handling human tissues
- General laboratory skills, including handling of biologic specimens, infectious agents, radiation and toxic chemicals
- Ability to adhere to Standard Operating Procedures and protocols
- Awareness of laboratory safety (such as radiation and chemical toxicity) and Occupational Health and Safety
- Good interpersonal and communication skills including ability to present and discuss own research work, contribute to discussion of the work of others, pass on technical skills, and work collaboratively across all levels in the organisation
- Capacity to work effectively independently and as part of a team
- Excellent organisational skills, high work standards and a meticulous attention to detail, with the ability to prioritise effectively and to multi task

## **Vaccinations and Immunisation**

It is a condition of employment for this role that if you are required now or in the future, to work or interact in Queensland Health clinical facility; or in an equivalent clinical health facility; or health care role; or will be required to perform work tasks that put you at risk of exposure to vaccine-preventable disease you are required to be immunised against, and remain immunised against, certain vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) in accordance with the University's Vaccinations and Immunisation Guidelines (PPL 2.60.08). The employee is required to provide evidence of immunisation against VPDs.

*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](#) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.*

*Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to [recruitment@uq.edu.au](mailto:recruitment@uq.edu.au).*