POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Fellow

Organisation Unit: School of Agriculture and Food Sciences

Position Number: 3049491

Type of Employment: Fixed-Term, Part-Time

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 CWTS Leiden Ranking (32), the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (48), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (69). Excluding the award component, UQ is now ranked 45th 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 52,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 15,400 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 250,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a $1.75 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 School of Agriculture and Food Sciences is one of the largest Schools of this type in Australia, comprising research and teaching experts in agribusiness and the science disciplines of animals and wildlife, plants and soil sciences, food and nutrition science. With nearly 350 staff, 300 higher degree research students and over $33 million in operating and research income, the School has helped UQ to become recognised as one of the top 50 universities in the world for Life and Agriculture Sciences, and the leading agriculture university in Australia.

Located at St Lucia and Gatton, the School is a large and dynamic multidisciplinary hub focused on applied research and teaching within the Faculty of Science committed to finding innovative and technology focussed solutions to global challenges. The School offers a range of undergraduate postgraduate coursework and research degrees encompassing agriculture and related disciplines ranging from Bachelor Degree to Doctorate. With a diverse group of internationally regarded scientists, the School hosts six research concentrations, of which three are aligned with the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation – a joint initiative between The University of Queensland and the Queensland State Government. Quality laboratories and facilities and strong partnerships with industry, community and government bodies, provide an environment that enables world class research and research training in a collaborative and cooperative spirit for postgraduate students and researchers. Information about the Faculty and the School may be accessed on the Faculty’s web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/agriculture/

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

To undertake research on biocrusts seeking to characterise their physiological function in grazing lands and the effects of fire and stocking rates on biocrust recovery and nitrogen fixation in situ and in controlled experiments. More broadly the position will engage in research to further their expertise and growing research profile to achieve national recognition in their discipline.
Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

• Take on a leadership role in an independent and/or team research program by conducting research and publishing scholarly papers or exhibiting in high quality outlets to achieve recognition at a national level.
• Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research projects.
• Prepare research publications and progress reports and participate in regular meetings to discuss project objectives, methodology and outcomes.
• Actively seek research funding from internal and external sources including the Commonwealth research granting agencies, the state government and industry.
• Work in close collaboration with project partners, including Queensland and Northern Territory Governments and stakeholders of the grazing industry.
• Assist the project chief investigators to coordinate team efforts and communication of project outcomes.

Teaching and Learning

• Contribute to the effective supervision of Honours and PhD students

Service and Engagement

• Provide effective links with the livestock industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
• Perform a range of administrative functions to ensure effective reporting and budgeting.
• 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 Chief Investigator, Professor Susanne Schmidt, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences.
SELECTION CRITERIA

For a Research Focussed Level B Academic:

- PhD in the discipline area.
- Demonstrated ability to conduct meaningful research in the discipline area.
- Evidence of establishing effective relationships to represent and promote the research area at a university and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies.
- Track record of publication of research findings in peer reviewed journals and conferences.
- Contribution to effective supervision of Honours and Research Higher Degree students.
- Evidence of contribution towards successful external grant applications.
- Demonstrated high-level communication and interpersonal skills including the ability to consult and negotiate with other stakeholders to ensure project objectives are met.
- Well-developed communication, interpersonal and consultative skills and the ability to work collaboratively with colleagues from a multidisciplinary background.
- Experience in 4-wheel driving and familiarity with the working conditions in Australia’s arid zone ecosystems and extreme climate.

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.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the HR Contact Officer.