POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Technical Officer (Tropical Agronomy)
Organisation Unit: School of Agriculture and Food Sciences
Position Number: 3041929
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term for 3 years
Classification: HEW Level 5

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 plant and soil science, animal science, agricultural business, environmental science and food, nutrition and technology. With a diverse group of internationally regarded scientists, our experts deliver knowledge, skills and research that provide solutions to world issues in climate change, feeding the world, managing the environment, replacing fossil fuels with biofuels, maintaining biodiversity and supporting economic and community development.

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 and postgraduate coursework and research degrees encompassing agriculture and related disciplines ranging from Bachelor Degree to Doctorate. 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.

Further information on the School’s teaching programs, research focuses and community activities can be accessed at www.uq.edu.au/agriculture. Faculty of Science information covering 7 Schools and 19 Centres is available at www.uq.edu.au/science and information on the Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation – a joint initiative between The University of Queensland and the Queensland State Government, which the School is closely aligned with, is available at www.qaafi.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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The Technical Officer (plants) is responsible for provision of technical support for research in tropical agronomy group. The position primarily supports field research in GRDC projects in the area of mungbean agronomy/physiology and crop nutrition. The role will also be responsible for managing and maintaining facilities belonging to the agronomy/plant science group, and supporting research training in agronomy science.
Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Academic staff, undergraduate and postgraduate Support**
- Assist and undertake planning, coordination and delivery of field and glasshouse research trials for mungbean agronomy and crop nutrition research in the tropical agronomy group. Regularly revise, update and modify practical manuals and develop and trial new practical elements.
- Provide technical support, guidance and advice to undergraduate (honours), course work and research postgraduate students in the execution of their projects. Induct and train students in laboratory and field sites, facilities and techniques, as required.
- Acquire and maintain consumable stores, reference materials and specimens for use by students in practical teaching or by higher degree research students.
- Support and participate in excursions and site visits, as required.

**Facilities and Asset Management**
- Under general direction, exercise responsibility for supervision and operation of teaching and research facilities belonging to the agronomy group. Establish and maintain appropriate safe work procedures, tidiness and housekeeping in collaboration with users and in accordance with UQ and School procedures and relevant statutory guidelines.
- Actively engage in activities associated with the efficient and timely management of equipment, instruments and facilities including ordering, calibration, control and operation, and reporting, arranging and monitoring of planned and unplanned maintenance.

**Occupational Health and Safety**
- In areas of responsibility, assist staff and students to comply with their occupational health and safety responsibilities, monitor work practices in laboratories and field sites, address and report incidences or breaches of UQ policy.
- Provide support and training for staff and students in following UQ guidelines and safe work procedures related to the ordering, handling, storage and disposal of chemicals, and the testing, operation and maintenance of electrical and mechanical equipment.

**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, Dr Marisa Collins.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Completion of a Bachelor degree with specialisations in plant science or related disciplines; or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education and training.
- For the purpose of field site visits and sample collection, a manual driver’s license (Qld transport class C) is required.
- Demonstrated knowledge in the fields of plant science.
- Knowledge and skills in relevant laboratory, glasshouse and field techniques, including the set up and operation of new instruments and equipment.
- Capability or willingness to develop skills in measurements associated with field based research work both in crops and soil nutrition; with an enthusiasm for outdoor work essential.
- Ability to learn and exercise skills in managing laboratories and field sites for research in accordance with internal and external policies, standards and guidelines.
- Able to support undergraduate and postgraduate students in their learning and to provide technical advice and training appropriate to students’ needs.
- Experienced and skilled in Microsoft Office applications, and familiarity with relevant scientific and statistics software programs.

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.

This role is a full-time position, based at Gatton campus.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to (science.recruitment@uq.edu.au).