POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: Centre for Advanced Imaging
Position Number: TBA
Type of Employment: Casual
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.

**Centre for Advanced Imaging**

The Centre for Advanced Imaging (CAI) is a strategic initiative of The University of Queensland, reflecting the growth in biotechnology, biomedical and materials research requiring advanced imaging capabilities. As a leading imaging research facility in Australia, and one of a handful in the world, CAI brings together the skills of a critical mass of researchers and ‘state-of-the-art’, world- or Australian-first research imaging instruments. NMR, EPR, MRI, PET, CT, US, MS and optical imaging are now key platform research technologies for studying the structure and function of biomolecules and living organisms, from proteins to the human.

CAI conducts research across the spectrum from development of new imaging technologies, analysis of molecular structure, synthesis of MRI and PET biomarkers targeting fundamental biological processes to studies of major diseases, such as neurodegenerative disorders, cancer and cardiovascular disease, affecting a range of organ systems, through to imaging economically significant agricultural animals and plant material, minerals and construction materials.

Further details on the Centre for Advanced imaging and the research interests of its staff can be found on CAI’s website [http://www.cai.uq.edu.au/](http://www.cai.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](http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq)

**DUTY STATEMENT**

**Primary Purpose of Position**

To provide technical research support and assistance imaging projects at the Centre for Advanced Imaging working part-time up to 18 hours per week.

**Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- General laboratory and experimental assistance, including histology, immunohistochemistry, microscopy and lab administration
- Assisting in animal procedures and manipulations (e.g. surgery, injections, perfusions)
- Handling radioactive compounds for imaging studies
- Performing routine laboratory procedures including media preparation, equipment maintenance and calibration
- Assisting with the preparation, collection and analysis of experimental samples
• Maintaining and ordering general laboratory consumables
• Preparation of data for research outcome-related publications

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 incumbent reports to Associate Professor, Rajiv Bhalla at the Centre for Advanced Imaging (CAI) on a day-to-day basis, and to the Director, Centre for Advanced Imaging, Professor David Reutens.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
• Bachelor of Science degree or a related discipline, and at least 2 years’ subsequent relevant work experience or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training in a research related environment.
• Demonstrated knowledge of a research environment, with competence in conducting general laboratory experimental procedures, with experience in animal experimental procedures.
• An understanding and experience in safe laboratory working practices and methodology, OHS protocols.
• Ability to work effectively in a research team or independently and meet deadlines, whilst working on multi-task experiments.
• Demonstrated high level of organisation skills, with excellent attention to detail, interpersonal and communication skills to effectively liaise with a range of stakeholders including other research staff and students, industry fellows or external organisations.
• Demonstrated capacity to undertake further training and development to enhance work performance.
• Excellent self-motivation, independent thinking, and systemic problem solving skills to achieve research goals.
• Competent use of a wide range of standard computer applications including Macintosh or PC word processing, spreadsheet, research and presentation software.
Desirable

• An understanding of the principals involved in scientific imaging processes.

Working with Animals

Working with laboratory animals is an inherent requirement of some positions. Appointment to this position would 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.

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.