POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant

Organisation Unit: Queensland Brain Institute

Position Number: 3037109

Type of Employment: Part Time (60%FTE) Fixed Term for 12 months

Classification: Hwe 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 Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) is situated on the St Lucia campus of The University of Queensland. Established as a neuroscience research institute in 2003, its dedicated team of over 400 research staff, including 41 laboratory heads or group leaders, work to understand the development, organisation and function of the healthy and the diseased brain. Their findings are then applied to the development of new therapeutic approaches to prevent and/or restore loss of function in diseases of the nervous system, such as Alzheimer’s and other dementias, stroke, schizophrenia, motor neuron disease, anxiety and depression.

QBI’s success is evidenced through the number of peer-reviewed high quality publications that are produced each year, and their success in competitive grant funding schemes, always well-above the national averages.

Over the past decade QBI has played a key role in contributing to UQ attaining the highest possible score of 5 for neuroscience, in both the 2010, 2012, and 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews, one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

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.

Information about the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s website at www.qbi.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 primary responsibility of the Research Assistant will be to organize the lab neuronal cells culture, deal with administrative duties such as animal ethics, data base entry. The applicant will be responsible for handling all the cloning/subcloning of plasmids in the lab in collaboration with the protein expression facility at UQ.

Duties
Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Neuronal Cell Culture
- Molecular Biology (PCR, subcloning, mutagenesis)
- Biochemistry (Western Blotting, pull down)
- Interact with other cell and molecular neuroscientists within the research team;
- Keep clear and accurate records of experimental methodology, plasmids and results.

Other
Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including:
- 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 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 Prof Frederic A. Meunier.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Experience in neuronal cell culture;
- Experience in gel electrophoresis and western blotting;
- Experience and or knowledge in molecular biology techniques including cloning and PCR.
- Knowledge of research environment and methodology;
- Ability to work independently and to multi-task experiments while meeting timelines
- Self-motivation and independent thinking with enthusiasm to achieve the research goals;
- Dedication and focus on the research undertaking;
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively without direct supervision with a high level of organisation skills;
- Systematic approach to problem solving;
• Capacity to liaise effectively and relate well to research staff and students;
• Willing to undergo further training as required;
• Excellent attention to detail;
• Awareness of laboratory safety, occupational health and safety protocols;

**Desirable**

• Animal handling skills (rodents);
• Animal ethics writing skills

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 hr.qbi@uq.edu.au