POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Senior Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number: 3040789
Type of Employment: Part Time, Fixed term for up to 2 years
Classification: Academic Research Level C

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.

Sensory Neurobiology Group

Research in the Sensory Neurobiology Group, led by Prof. Justin Marshall, is focussed on visual neuroscience and visual ecology in Australia’s vibrant marine environment. The field of research involves both lab and field-based neuroscience. It aims at understanding how the brains and sensory systems of animals in the real world have been shaped by their environment and behavioural needs.

Information about the Institute may be accessed 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

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

To develop a cutting-edge research program using behavioural, anatomical and genetic techniques to examine the visual system of reef fish. This will entail both laboratory and field work and will require extensive animal handling and behavioural experiments. A number of techniques may be either learned or desirable, including: use of theoretical visual models, Matlab programming, experimental design, scuba-diving, boat-handling, spectrophotometry, in situ and in laboratory photography and videography, image handling and computation, microscopy and other imaging techniques such as cell labeling.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Publish high quality papers in sensory ecology and contribute to the disciplined academic environment of the laboratory and the institute.
- Conduct research to further understanding of visual systems, fish biology and visual ecology.
- Present results of research at meetings at all levels – laboratory, institutional, national and international as appropriate.
- Contribute to safe laboratory working environment.
- Contribute to supervision of RHD, honours and undergraduate students, and to the smooth running of the laboratory.

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 Prof. Justin Marshall, Sensory Neurobiology Laboratory, Queensland Brain Institute.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in the area of behavioural or neurobiology or closely related areas in the natural sciences
- Relevant experience in a scientific role and expertise in studying visual systems, fish and/or animal models. Demonstrated ability to bring research to publication.
- A track record, relative to opportunity, that demonstrates an ability to perform research to the highest standards, and publish first rate manuscripts.
- Research focus on understanding visual processes, sensory neurobiology and animal behaviour.
- Evidence of a contribution to research through publication of scholarly papers in the international literature and presentation of scientific work at national/international meetings
- Evidence of successful external grant applications
- Ability to acquire and establish new experimental methodologies
- Ability to work independently and to multi-task experiments
- Demonstrated initiative and problem-solving abilities
- Experience in supervising or co-supervising RHD students
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues
- Awareness of laboratory safety, occupational health and safety protocols

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 hr.qbi@uq.edu.au