

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Research Assistant
Organisation Unit:	Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number:	NEW
Type of Employment:	Fixed term, full time up to 2 years with possible extension
Classification:	HEW Level 5

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) is one of Australia's leading research and teaching institutions. For more than a century, we have been bringing together outstanding educators, researchers and innovators – across a range of disciplines – to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that can benefit the world.

Today, UQ is [ranked among the world's leading universities](#) and we are consistently recognised as one of the top 5 universities in Australia.

Each year, we teach around 55,000 students across 6 faculties, located at our 3 beautiful campuses at St Lucia, Herston and Gatton – as well as online. We aspire to broaden the knowledge and skills of these students, so that they're equipped to achieve their professional goals and make a positive contribution to our society, and the world.

The University is also home to 8 research institutes and more than 100 separate research centres with an interdisciplinary community of more than 1500 researchers, who have come to UQ from all over the globe. This outstanding community of researchers is continuing to build upon UQ's long and proud tradition of discovery science, invention, innovation, translation and commercialisation.

At UQ, we recognise that our people are our greatest asset. As such, we seek to recruit innovative people who are passionate about helping us to advance our mission and broaden our impact.

Our culture is built on the things that we value most highly – the pursuit of excellence; creative and independent thinking; honesty and accountability; mutual respect and diversity; and providing support for our people. Through the promotion of these values, we're creating a culture that encourages our people to bring their very best, authentic self when they come to work at UQ.

The Queensland Brain Institute

The Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) was established in 2003 on the St Lucia campus of UQ, and is home to more than 450 staff and students, including 38 Group Leaders. The researchers work to understand the development, organisation and function of the brain. This is done by exploring the neural circuits in the brain, how information is processed in these circuits, how their function results in behavioural outcomes, and how dysfunction of these circuits leads to disorders such as dementia, stroke, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease, anxiety and depression, and schizophrenia. Ultimately, researchers

aim to develop novel therapeutic approaches to treat disorders of neural function, and to improve learning in classrooms and in the workplace.

Over the past decade QBI has become known as a world-leading neuroscience research institute. It played a key role in contributing to UQ attaining the highest possible score of 5 for neuroscience, in all four of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews (in 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2018), one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

Details of the Institute may be accessed from the website: www.qbi.uq.edu.au

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is [available online](#).

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

Our research consists in a mix of clinical, translational and basic science. Our group, based at the Queensland Brain Institute, seeks to identify schizophrenia risk genes and the role they play both in normal and disease brain development and function. We are using a variety of models and techniques; blood and cell lines from research participants, bioinformatics, and animal models. This role will primarily focus on research programs based on the zebrafish model. It will consist in supporting the established team in generating mutants using a recent CRISPR/Cas9 pipeline we established and in using state-of-the-art microscopy and diverse phenotypic techniques to investigate the role of each respective gene-of-interest in brain development and function. The research assistant will also have the opportunity to contribute to drug discovery programs aimed at finding new anti-psychotic compounds for the clinics.

Please contact NHMRC fellow Dr Jean Giacomotto for any further questions prior to application, j.giacomotto@uq.edu.au ; <http://researchers.uq.edu.au/researcher/12806>.

Please note that due to travel restrictions, we will not be able to consider overseas applicants.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to (by priority):

- Molecular biology experiments in routine (High-end cloning, Digestion, Gel extraction, transformation and mini/maxiprep);
- Zebrafish handling, breeding and collecting;
- Generation of CRISPR knockout zebrafish lines;
- Microinjection into zebrafish embryos for the generation of transgenic animals;
- Screening for transgenic (Stereomicroscope observation for selection of the appropriate fluorescent embryos and larvae);
- Microscopy (Fluorescent and Confocal microscopy);
- Biochemical techniques such as Western Blot and immunostaining and drug screening in multiwell plates;

- Interaction with other colleagues and collaborators within QBI and IMB;
- Conduct experiments with clear recording and outstanding attention to methodology.

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 Dr Jean Giacomotto and Professor Bryan Mowry.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- BSc (Hons) or equivalent; or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training;
- Extensive experience with molecular biology (State-of-the-art cloning approaches, Digestion, Gel extraction, Transformation and mini/maxiprep);
- Experience with CRISPR technology would be regarded very favourably;
- Experience with zebrafish/mouse handling, breeding and embryos collection;
- Experience with zebrafish/mouse embryos micro-injections;
- Expertise with in vivo observation of fluorescence and animal observation;
- Ability to work independently and to multi-task experiments while meeting timelines;
- Demonstrated experience with formatting results for integration in scientific manuscripts;
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively without direct supervision with a high level of organisation skills;
- Strong communications skills and ability to consistently summarise results of research activities.

Desirable

- Expertise with confocal microscopy;
- Experience in western blotting and immunostaining;
- Experience in cell culture.

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](#) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

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