POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Gnotobiotic Animal Technical Officer
Organisation Unit: University of Queensland Biological Resources
Position Number: TBC
Type of Employment: Full time, 3 years
Classification: Hew Level 4

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 Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

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 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 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 Translational Research Institute (TRI) is a new multi-partner biomedical research enterprise, developing novel interventions to prevent and treat human disease. The Institute, with facilities across hospital campuses in south Brisbane, will bring together leading researchers from several existing research institutes focused on translating biomedical research into practical outcomes for patients. The partners to TRI are the University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, The Mater Medical Research Institute, the Queensland University of Technology Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, The University of Queensland Faculty of Health Sciences School of Medicine, and Queensland Health at Princess Alexandra (PA) Hospital.

The Translational Research Institute is an Australian first; one of the southern hemisphere’s largest facilities of its kind; and one of a few places in the world where new biopharmaceuticals and treatments can be discovered, produced, clinically tested, and manufactured in one location. TRI is a major new wet lab research facility located on the Princess Alexandra Hospital teaching campus. TRI houses over 650 researchers and students, combining clinical and translational research to advance progress from laboratory discovery to application in the community.

The University of Queensland Biological Resources (UQBR) manages the Biological Resources Facility (BRF) on behalf of TRI. The facility was commissioned in 2013, operates as a TRI core facility and is critical to successful research outcomes.

The Gnotobiotic facility is a state of the art facility designed to enable the manipulation of gut flora in rodents. This facility will allow research using animal models that are axenic (no microflora) or gnotobiotic (defined flora) to better understand the relationship between gut flora and disease.

The facility consists of 24 x flexible film isolators, with a capacity of approximately 500 cages, and 72 x Tecniplast Iso-cage-P cage level isolators. Additionally the facility has the capability for embryo transfer to create new germ-free strains. It is planned to also include a surgical isolator for more complicated experimental techniques in a germ-free setting.

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

The primary purpose of this position is to provide a high quality care and monitoring of animals, and other duties as appropriate, take part in projects involving animal research conducted by researchers from The University of Queensland and the Translational Research Institute. This position will involve additional specialty training, working in the Gnotobiotic Facility.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Providing care and husbandry to laboratory animals predominantly laboratory rodents within a germ-free and gnotobiotic setting.
- Monitoring breeding performance of stock, transgenic and knockout lines of mice and maintaining records
- Checking the welfare and health of all animals
- Cleaning and general upkeep of animal holding and central areas
- Germ-free sterilisation of supplies and equipment
- Construction and maintenance of germ-free isolators and Iso-cages
- Regular sample collection and quality control measures
- Cage cleaning and preparation and use of cleaning and sterilising equipment
- Maintaining facility equipment in accordance with the facility schedule
- Specialised animal procedures relevant to the facility needs including oral gavage, injections and euthanasia
- Maintaining facilities records (in house database, movement sheets, room logs, maintenance charts) etc.
- Monitoring and ordering consumables
- Inducting staff and new users
- Staff/student supervision as required
- Liaising with the research staff and students through established systems
- Working in specialised animal and OGTR certified areas
- Ensuring the bio security of all animal holding facilities
- Participation on the weekend/public holiday roster
- Work as an effective team member, encouraging a team approach in line with the facility operations
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor
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
- Medical Clearance: Working with laboratory animals is an inherent requirement of the position. The appointment is therefore 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 safety. In addition, the Employee is required to fully comply with necessary ongoing health monitoring procedures and control measures associated with the position.

Organisational Relationships
The position reports to the Senior Gnotobiotic Facility coordinator and the BRF Facility Manager, UQ Biological Resources.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**

- Completion of a Diploma or Certificate III level qualification in the animal technology industry or other related fields, or an equivalent combination of relevant work-related experience and/or Education/Training.
- Demonstrated significant experience in small laboratory animal care facilities
- Demonstrated experience and competence with techniques in rodents (injections, sample collection, surgery and euthanasia)
- Knowledge of relevant codes/acts and their administration, governing the use of animals in research.
- Good organizational skills and the ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Strong attention to detail and accurate record keeping, including written records and computer entry
- Demonstrated excellence in time management
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Understanding of basic laboratory and animal house occupational health and safety issues.
- Demonstrated problem solving skills

**Desirable**

- Demonstrated experience in managing GM rodent production and colony management
- Experience and/or training in a gnotobiotic facility
- Training and experience in handling biological specimens, toxic chemicals, or infectious agents.
- Demonstrated experience maintaining aseptic techniques

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.