

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Robert Day Postdoctoral Fellowship in Palaeontology and Stratigraphy
Organisation Unit:	School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Position Number:	3026639
Type of Employment:	Full time, Fixed Term for 12 months
Classification:	Research Academic Level A

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://uniquet.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 School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) is part of the Faculty of Science and is located on the St Lucia campus (Brisbane) of the University. It has 104 academic staff, and 23 administrative and technical staff. There is a large contingent of research appointments and the School has been active in establishing a range of adjunct positions in order to promote engagement with leaders in government and the professions.

SEES is a vibrant, multidisciplinary School with extensive teaching and research programs covering the fields of Geology, Geography, Environmental Management, Occupational Health and Safety Sciences and Planning. The School offers a wide range of undergraduate programs including Bachelor's degrees in Arts (Geography) and Science (Geological and Geographical Science), a Bachelor of Environmental Management and Environmental Science, Occupational Health and Safety Science and a Bachelor of Regional and Town Planning. Honours in Geology, Geography, Geophysics, and Computational Earth Sciences. Coursework masters degrees are offered in Mineral Resources, Environmental Management, Geographic Information Science, Occupational Health and Safety Science and Urban and Regional Planning and the School contributes to the multi-school Master of Development Practice. The School offers postgraduate training in research via the Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy and currently has over 150 students enrolled in these degrees. The School has a strong research profile and enjoys an excellent success rate in nationally competitive grants and has a strong record of high-quality publications.

SEES hosts [world-class facilities](#) which include sample preparation facilities and a complex analytical infrastructure consisting of trace element, radiogenic and stable isotope geochemistry, radiogenic and noble gas geochronology, coal petrology and organic geochemistry, geomicrobiology and fluid inclusion facilities.

A recently built geomicrobiology laboratory provides culturing facilities for aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms, including a coy anaerobic chamber, a photosynthetic growth chamber, fluorescence microscopy, and sample preparation for SEM and TEM analyses of bacteria-mineral interactions. In addition, the School maintains close links with the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, a Major National Research Facility that provides access to electron microscopes (SEMs and TEMs), electron microprobes, X-ray diffractometers, nano-SIMS, surface analysis capabilities, and a host of other modern analytical instrumentation.

SEES also has a state-of-art planning studio as well as GIS and [Remote Sensing](#) computer laboratories. SEES Faculty and students are also actively engaged in using UQ's world-class marine research facilities at [Heron Island](#) and [Stradbroke Island](#).

Further information and details on the research interests of academic staff in the [School of Earth and Environmental Sciences](#) can be found on the web.

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

To engage in original research in the field of palaeontology or stratigraphic palaeontology. The position will benefit from a larger initiative to strengthen research and training in palaeontology at The University of Queensland and is open to any field of palaeontology, biostratigraphy or palynology. However, preference will be given to applicants who can provide expertise relevant to palaeontological and stratigraphic problems in Queensland. The successful candidate will be part of a diverse team of research professionals and students aimed at fundamental and applied research in these areas.

Applicants should also refer to the [UQ Academic Criteria for Performance policy](#). This policy applies to staff at levels A to E, across all of the academic categories - Teaching and Research, Teaching Focused, Research Focused and Clinical Academic.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Develop an independent research program with goals to obtain external funding in an appropriate area and as agreed.
- Manage a research program in a field of palaeontology or stratigraphic palaeontology.
- Undertake research into palaeontological and stratigraphic problems in Queensland.
- Conduct research and publish in high quality journals.
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research projects with special emphasis on relevance to Queensland.

Teaching

- Contribute to teaching and supervision at appropriate levels and as required.

Service and Engagement

- Foster the School's relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Attend School based meetings and Seminars.
- 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

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the Deputy Head of School, Associate Professor Patrick Moss of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- PhD in the broad area of palaeontology/stratigraphy or equivalent.
- Demonstrated expert knowledge in a relevant area of palaeontology/stratigraphy including expertise in one or more systematic groups important for Queensland
- Demonstrated track record of success through peer-reviewed publication and/or conference presentations of original research.
- Demonstrated skills in sample preparation and analysis relevant to research specialty.
- A vision for your own research agenda and ability to develop an appropriate research project that addresses problems in Queensland palaeontology and/or stratigraphy.
- Evidence of a contribution to research, including successful external grant applications.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- Ability to attract independent research funding is desirable.
- Ability to seek and establish collaborations and linkages with external groups such as other universities, the Queensland Museum and industry.

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.

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

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.