POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Institute for Molecular Bioscience
Position Number: 3046768
Type of Employment: Full-time, fixed-term
Classification: Academic Research 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 (45), QS World University Rankings (48), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (69). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index, and our Academic Ranking of World Universities result in the field of Life and Agricultural Sciences is 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 University of Queensland’s Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) is a leading global life sciences research institute committed to improving quality of life through research. IMB was established in 2000 as UQ’s first research institute and is the cornerstone of one of the largest bioscience research precincts in Australia.

The Institute is home to more than 450 researchers, postgraduate students and support staff from more than 40 countries who work in partnership with their academic, industry and clinical colleagues around the world to advance knowledge in areas including pain, rare diseases, inflammation, superbug infection, cardiovascular disease, environmental research, drug discovery and development, cancer, diabetes and obesity, and reproductive health. Our mission is to drive the bioeconomy and create better health; our vision is to be a life sciences institute with global impact.

By investigating how we grow and develop at the genetic, molecular, cellular and organ levels, IMB researchers can better understand the development processes and pathways involved in human and animal health and disease. The institute also has the technical capacity to translate its new knowledge into drugs, diagnostics and technologies to more effectively prevent, detect and treat disease; and pursue opportunities in a range of biotechnology applications for health, industry and the environment.

IMB’s research outcomes are protected and commercialised by UQ-owned technology transfer group UniQuest.

Details of the research interests of the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s website at: https://imb.uq.edu.au/

Information for Prospective Staff

The Institute recognises and values equity and diversity, and encourages applications from any individual who meets the requirements of this position irrespective of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, age or other protected attributes.

IMB strives to provide an inclusive working environment, and along with the University is committed to supporting staff with family and caring responsibilities by providing policies, programs and initiatives to help balance work and family responsibilities.

Specific initiatives at IMB can be found at (https://imb.uq.edu.au/about/equity-and-diversity-imb)

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
A Postdoctoral Research Fellow will focus their efforts on developing their expertise and emerging research profile in their discipline. At this level the incumbent will be supported and guided by more senior academic staff with the expectation of an increase degree of autonomy over time. This role will be part of an NIH-funded project aimed at the development of peptide-based nerve imaging agents that target voltage-gated ion channels. The primary role will be to functionally examine the interaction of peptides with voltage-gated ion channels. The incumbent is expected to develop methods for production, purification, and functional characterisation of the peptides, and examination of their stability in biological fluids.

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

Research
- Production and purification of recombinant peptides
- Electrophysiological analysis of the potency and selectivity of the peptides
- Develop a coherent research program by conducting research and publishing scholarly papers or exhibitions in high quality outputs
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research projects
- Participate in applications for external research funding
- Prepare research publications and progress reports and participate in regular meetings to discuss project objectives, methodology and outcomes

Teaching
- Contribute to the supervision of Honour and Higher Degree by Research students (as appropriate)

Service and Engagement
- Begin to develop external relationships with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community
- Perform a rage of administrative functions
- Contribute to activities that benefit the organisational unit, including participation in decision-making and serving on internal committees
- 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 Group Leader, Professor Glenn King.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- PhD (or progress towards PhD) in a relevant discipline such as Biochemistry/Structural Biology
- Demonstrated ability to conduct research in the discipline area with knowledge of the following
  - Knowledge of basic molecular biology techniques and automated whole-cell patch-clamp electrophysiology
  - Knowledge of protein and peptide purification techniques, including reverse-phase HPLC and nickel affinity chromatography
- Track record of publication of research findings in peer reviewed journals and conferences
- An ability to represent and promote the research area at the University and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies
- Demonstrated high-level communication and interpersonal skills including the ability to consult and negotiate with other stakeholders to ensure project objectives are met
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues from a multidisciplinary background and rapidly learn new skills and concepts
- Experience with two-electrode voltage-clamp electrophysiology is desirable

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 recruitment@uq.edu.au.