POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences
Position Number: 3044707
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term for 3 years
Classification: Hew Level 5 and 6 (2 positions available)

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 Faculty of Science is recognised as a powerhouse for some of the world’s leading scientists, teachers, science programs and commercial outcomes. The Faculty is one of the largest Science groupings in Australia, with approximately 1100 (equivalent full-time) staff, and about 7500 (equivalent full-time) students.

Throughout its Schools and Centres, the Faculty unites the disciplines of agriculture and animals, biomedical and biological sciences, chemistry, earth sciences, food sciences, geography, marine science, maths and physics, the environment and veterinary science.

With strong links between the enabling and applied sciences, UQ researchers and graduates are working on a wide range of groundbreaking projects from the molecular characterisation of drug resistant bacteria that affect piglets through to finding better treatments for illness and rehabilitation of the environment.

Information about the Faculty may be accessed on the Faculty’s web site: http://www.science.uq.edu.au/

School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences

The School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences (SCMB) combines the disciplines of Chemistry, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Parasitology into a single academic unit. The School has modern research laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and research infrastructure. The School includes over 50 academic staff, who are widely published internationally and have extensive research backgrounds. Information about the School and research interests of academic staff may be found on the web site http://www.scmb.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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

To engage as a Research Assistant within an established research group and wider Australian consortium developing a Rapid Response Vaccine Pipeline. This team is funded by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to validate a subunit vaccine platform and adapt its use to an emergency epidemic response. An overview of the project is available here: https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2019/01/partnership-supercharge-vaccine-production. The research to be carried out includes rational design and molecular cloning of subunit vaccines based on viral fusion proteins, protein expression and
puriﬁcation, in vitro protein characterisation, animal immunizations and analysis of immune responses using a pseudovirus neutralisation assay.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research Support (HEW Level 5)

- Plan and conduct laboratory work within an established research group and larger consortium
- Conduct high quality experiments under the guidance of experienced post-doctoral researchers to achieve a well-deﬁned set of project goals
- Thorough recording of results using an electronic lab book format
- Present results of research at lab meetings
- Contribute to safe laboratory working environment.

Research & Administration (Additional for appointment at HEW Level 6)

- Laboratory managerial duties including tracking inventory, purchasing and receiving of laboratory supplies and maintaining safe operating procedures
- Standard procedures involving laboratory mice including immunisations, blood draws and sacriﬁce

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 Professor Paul Young.
SELECTION CRITERIA

- Qualifications and training equivalent to an Honours degree in microbiology, immunology, molecular biology or related field
- Experience with the general techniques of molecular biology including cloning, protein expression, purification, and mammalian cell culture
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- Well organised with thorough attention to detail in the recording of research methods and results
- Commitment to upholding the University’s values, and with the outstanding personal qualities of openness, respectfulness and integrity

Additional for appointment at HEW level 6

- Qualifications and training equivalent to an Honours degree in microbiology, immunology, molecular biology or related field with subsequent work experience; or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training
- Experience in animal handling and research involving animals
- Demonstrated ability to manage a laboratory and projects

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 science.recruitment@uq.edu.au