POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Position Number: 3043162
Type of Employment: Full Time - Fixed Term
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+

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 Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI) is a research institute
of the University of Queensland (UQ) which was established in 2010 and comprises of four
research centres – the Centre for Crop Science, the Centre for Horticultural Science, the
Centre for Animal Science and the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences.

QAAFI’s team of 450 researchers, postgraduate students and support staff undertake high
impact science for agriculture and food industries. The institute’s strong partnership with the
Queensland Government provides our researchers with a direct link to the agriculture
industry in Queensland, and world class field research facilities throughout Queensland.
Agriculture is one of UQ’s highest ranked research fields nationally and internationally and
QAAFI is a global leader in agricultural research in subtropical and tropical production
systems.

QAAFI scientists are driven to make a difference to the agriculture and food industries and
have over 150 collaborators worldwide.
Details of the research interests of the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s web site
at http://www.qaafi.uq.edu.au

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification
standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of this position is to develop research into topical application strategies
aimed at introducing post-transcriptional gene silencing in plants to induce systemic viral
resistance in economically important crops. This industry funded research project aims to
develop environmentally sustainable topical application of RNA interference for vegetable
and cotton protection against viruses and insect pests.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

• Lead and contribute to high quality research in the field of RNA interference for
  control of plant viruses
• Participate in the planning, development and conduct of plant research in laboratory and glasshouse environments. Maintain overall strategic direction of the project
• Use appropriate scientific, computer and laboratory technology in the conduct of technical work
• Excellent research management skills including accurate records of project activities and an ability to communicate them effectively to the project leader
• Contribute to the preparation of grant applications, papers for conference presentations, and reports for funding bodies
• Conduct research and publish scholarly papers in high quality outlets
• Maintain absolute confidentiality regarding the results of the project where appropriate and when requested
• Genuine enthusiasm for research and ambitions for high achievement.

**Teaching and Learning**
• Participate in events to attract postgraduate students to the Institute
• Contribute to supervision and training of research assistants, and research higher degree students.

**Service and Engagement**
• Contribute to the processes that enable the academic team to manage the work of the Institute, including participate in Institute decision-making and serve on Institute committees
• Foster the Institute’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community
• 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 Director of the Centre for Horticultural Science, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation or a delegate.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
- PhD in a relevant discipline RNAi, Plant Virology, Plant Molecular Biology or related field
- Demonstrated knowledge in the field of RNA interference, gene silencing and plant virology and in the area of molecular biology including PCR, cloning, restriction digests, expression and purification of RNA, proteins and their detection methods and analysis
- Demonstrated research management skills including the ability to plan and execute research objectives independently and within a defined timeframe
- Ability to work as a member of a multi-skilled team, building effective working relationships with colleagues and industry partners
- Evidence of a significant contribution to scientific research in the field of plant virology/RNAi, including publication of scientific work in high impact factor peer reviewed journals.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and stakeholders
- High level of professional integrity, with sound organisational and problem solving skills.

Desirable
- Experience in experiments related to virus detection in plants, vector mediated transmission, glasshouse assays and field trials
- Familiarity with appropriate statistical and bioinformatics programs
- Ability to communicate effectively with industry partners and assist in delivery of research milestones for funding bodies
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with colleagues
- Demonstrated significant contribution to scientific research, including successful external grant applications
- Experience in plant experimental systems, in glasshouse and field experiments
- Ability to maintain efficient functioning of laboratory equipment.

Please refer to the Criteria for Academic Performance policy PPL 5.70.17 when developing the duties and selection criteria for academic roles.

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.