POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Centre for Crop Science - Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Position Number: 3035959
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 $11 billion+ (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 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 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

To engage in a newly funded project aimed at delivering new knowledge on the changing lifecycle adaptation of annual ryegrass and other annual weed species in northern region cropping systems. The position will be responsible for seed collections of winter and summer growing biotypes from farmers’ fields across Queensland and New South Wales. The dormancy patterns and phenology of these biotypes will be characterised through a series of laboratory and field studies. Molecular tools will be used to determine genetic links to changing patterns in seasonality among annual ryegrass biotypes.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
**Research**
- Develop, establish and monitor research activities in the project
- Generate novel ideas for taking the research forward
- Prepare and submit project progress reports
- Prepare articles for bulletins, brochures, and journals
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research activities
- Participate in applications for competitive funding and publish in high-quality outlets

**Teaching and Learning**
- As a ‘Research focussed’ position there is no formal requirement for undergraduate teaching. However, it is encouraged that you actively seek teaching opportunities
- Participate in events to attract postgraduate students to the Institute
- Contribute to the supervision of honours and postgraduate students

**Service and Engagement**
- Foster the Institute’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community
- Perform a range of administrative functions in the Institute
- Contribute to the processes that enable the academic team to manage the work of the Institute, including participation in Institute and Centre decision-making and serving on Institute 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:
- 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 project’s Principal Research Fellow.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
- PhD in the area of Weed Science/Molecular Biology
- Demonstrated expert knowledge in the area of cropping weeds
- An ability to establish effective relationships and to represent and promote academic discipline at a university and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies
- Strong publication record in reputed journals
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues

Desirable
- Developed industry liaisons and professional contacts.
- Experience in liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop co-operative research initiatives.
- Familiarity with weed issues of the northern grain region of Australia

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.

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