POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number: 3040650
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed term until June 2020
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 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 Queensland Brain Institute works to understand the development, organisation and function of the brain. We aim to understand the neural circuits in the brain, how their function results in behavioural outcomes, and how dysfunction of these circuits leads to disorders such as dementia, Parkinson’s disease and schizophrenia. We aim to (1) Develop novel therapeutic approaches to treat disorders of neural function and (2) Use our understanding of brain function to improve learning in classrooms and in the workplace.

Established in 2003, QBI (www.qbi.uq.edu.au) is housed on the St Lucia campus of UQ. It is home to more than 450 staff and students, including 41 group leaders.

Over the past decade QBI has become known as one of the world’s leading neuroscience research institutes. It played a key role in contributing to UQ attaining the highest possible score of 5 for neuroscience, in both the 2010, 2012, and 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews, one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

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

The role of the Postdoctoral Research Fellow is to work directly with Associate Professor Margie Wright on a large neuroimaging genomics study of adolescent development.

The person appointed to the position is expected to supervise or co-supervise research students in relevant areas, as well as research assistants involved in the project, and to apply for both independent and collaborative funding relevant to the research focus.
Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Actively conduct research on adolescent development, which will include integration of genetic data with brain imaging, pubertal status, cognitive and emotional functioning, and environmental factors.
- Collaborate with Associate Professor Margie Wright in management and research, including literature reviews; research design; management of ethics applications and approvals; data analysis and interpretation, preparation of manuscripts and reports.
- Assist with the coordination, management, and conduct of research projects, including data collection and entry.
- Assist with the preparation of funding applications, including liaison with funding bodies.
- Present research results at meetings as appropriate (laboratory, institutional, national, international, general community)
- Prepare high-quality manuscripts for publication
- Collaborate with other group members and as part of national and international consortia
- Contribute to supervision and training of undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Contribute to the effective supervision of professional research staff undertaking duties relevant to the research process and management of the research projects.

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 Associate Professor Margie Wright, Imaging Genomics Group, Queensland Brain Institute.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**
- PhD in a relevant field (e.g. neuroimaging, quantitative genetics)
- Evidence of research productivity, including publications and conference presentations (relative to opportunity)
- Knowledge of fundamental brain MRI data analysis problems, including registration, tissue segmentation, noise removal, etc.
- Knowledge of the principles of genetics and genomics
- Experience using major imaging statistics techniques such as Freesurfer, FSL, SPM, etc.
- Experience in analysis of large-scale genomic datasets
- Excellent computing skills
- High level interpersonal skills and excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Demonstrated attention to detail
- Initiative, self-reliance, and motivation
- Ability to work both independently and within teams to successfully meet deadlines and complete research projects

**Desirable**
- Knowledge of neurodevelopment, neuropsychology, psychopathology, behaviour genetics
- Experience in statistical genetics approaches such as genome-wide association analysis (GWAS) and epigenetic profiling
- Experience in project management, research governance, and ethics

**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 hr.qbi@uq.edu.au