POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Biological Sciences and Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
Position Number: TBA
Type of Employment: Fixed term for 3 years
Classification: Research Academic Level B

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 (40), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (54), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (66). 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 53,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 17,000 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 260,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a $2.15 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 research team associated with this position is embedded within the School of Biological Sciences and Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI), a research institute of the University of Queensland (UQ). Members of the research team are also investigators in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture.

The School of Biological Sciences is part of the Faculty of Science and is one of the largest and most successful of its type in Australia, with 49 full-time academic staff, and over 200 enrolled PhD students. The School has broad expertise across ecology and evolution, molecular and quantitative genetics, paleobiology, developmental biology, behaviour, plant and animal physiology, and conservation biology. Our research programs involve a diverse array of taxa, ranging across microbes, animals and plants, including a particular focus in the areas of marine biology and entomology. Unique opportunities for biological research and teaching are provided by our proximity to a stunning array of marine and terrestrial subtropical habitats and their endemic biodiversity. A number of research programs in the School take advantage of major model-organism systems, including Drosophila, C. elegans, and Arabidopsis, and many include a strong quantitative and modelling focus.

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

**DUTY STATEMENT**

**Primary Purpose of Position**

To engage, as a Research Fellow, in research for industry outcomes in crop molecular physiology to address current and future needs of the Australian horticulture industry (HIA project AS17000). To engage in postgraduate supervision, and further development of aligned research programs, as well as performing administrative and other activities associated with the position.

**Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Research**
- Develop an ongoing program of applied research in the area of plant molecular physiology associated with high-value small-tree horticulture
- Conduct research and publish scholarly papers in high quality outlets
- Engage in independent and/or team research programs, including acting as chief investigator in applications for external research funding, and achieve national recognition in the research area.
- Ensure project milestones are met in a timely manner, including preparation of milestone reports
- Contribute intellectually to other projects in the group
- Present research findings at scientific and industry forums

**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
- Contribute to supervision of honours and postgraduate students

**Industry Liaison**
- Represent the University and the project in industry or funding body forums
- Forge new and build upon existing industry connections.
- Perform core activities to integrate research and industry priorities closely embedded with stakeholders to direct best outcomes for industry
- Develop and deliver original presentations to industry
- Write reports for industry and advise on significant industry issues

**Service and Engagement**
- Perform a range of administrative functions
- Support and serve on committees and provide inputs to decision making as appropriate.
- Foster the 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 Prof Christine Beveridge, or their delegate.
SELECTION CRITERIA

- PhD in plant molecular biology, with at least 5 years postdoctoral experience.
- Demonstrated expert knowledge in the area of plant molecular biology with specific expertise in molecular physiology, crop genetics and genomics, particularly in relation to the regulation of flowering.
- Demonstrated experience with the planning, designing and running of glasshouse and field trials.
- Demonstrated understanding of domestic tree crop industry needs in research, and relevant funding and industry bodies.
- Evidence of contributions towards successfully obtaining external research funding and preparation of grant applications.
- Established record of publications in reputed refereed journals.
- Evidence of effective supervision of Research Higher Degree students.
- Developed industry liaisons and professional contacts.
- Well-developed communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively with colleagues from a multidisciplinary background.

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 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.