POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: School of Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences
Position Number: 3008471
Type of Employment: Fixed Full Time for 7 Months (with possibility of extension)
Classification: Hew Level 5

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 $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 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 fifty academic staff who are published internationally and have extensive research backgrounds.

The Australian Centre for Ecogenomics (ACE) is a strategic research initiative established at UQ in 2010 under the direction of Professor Phil Hugenholtz and Professor Gene Tyson. It provides a focal point for sequence-based analysis of microbial communities and builds strength in this space not only in Australia, but the southern hemisphere as a whole. ACE is located on Level 5 of the Molecular Biosciences Building (#76) in SCMB. More information about SCMB and ACE may be found on the web sites SCMB and ACE respectively.

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

The successful applicant will be part of a team supporting the sequencing activities in the Australian Centre for Ecogenomics. This role incorporates the laboratory processing of customer samples ready for next-generation sequencing, as well as basic data QC and processing, client liaison, report preparation and invoicing.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- DNA and RNA extraction (for both amplicon and metagenomic sequencing pipelines)
- Bacterial quantification via quantitative PCR (qPCR)
- Initial downstream data processing
- Library preparation for shotgun sequencing on multiple platforms, including Nanopore and Illumina
- Attend weekly meetings to discuss progress
- Other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor, the laboratory manager and other senior staff within ACE
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 Sequencing Manager and other senior ACE staff

SELECTION CRITERIA

- BSc (Hons) degree majoring in microbiology, biochemistry or molecular biology, or an equivalent combination of experience and education/training.
- Strong knowledge and experience of molecular biology techniques.
- Ability to quickly acquire new laboratory techniques and to perform them routinely at a high level of accuracy and efficiency.
- Knowledge and practical application of good laboratory practices, including aseptic techniques and OH&S in a PC2 environment.
- Proficiency in word processing, spreadsheets and database entry.
- Willingness to learn basic computational data processing.
- Direct molecular microbial research expertise in areas relevant to the centre.
- Experience with Illumina, PacBio or Nanopore sequencing platforms, and associated library preparation
- Be willing to undergo training to become a Quarantine Accredited Person.
- Ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously.
- Capability to work collaboratively in a team environment.
- Attention to detail in carrying out experimental procedures and ability to keep accurate and comprehensive records.
- Sound organisational and problem solving skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work independently on set tasks.
- Ability to contribute to administrative tasks.
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 science.recruitment@uq.edu.au