

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Senior Animal Technical Officer
Organisation Unit:	University of Queensland Biological Resources
Position Number:	NEW
Type of Employment:	Full time, Fixed Term
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 (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 Translational Research Institute (TRI) is a new multi-partner biomedical research enterprise, developing novel interventions to prevent and treat human disease. The Institute opened in late 2012, with facilities across hospital campuses in south Brisbane, bringing together leading researchers from several existing research institutes focused on translating biomedical research into practical outcomes for patients. The partners to TRI are the University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, The Mater Medical Research Institute, the Queensland University of Technology Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, The University of Queensland Faculty of Health Sciences School of Medicine, and Queensland Health at Princess Alexandra (PA) Hospital.

The Translational Research Institute is an Australian first; one of the southern hemisphere's largest facilities of its kind; and one of a few places in the world where new biopharmaceuticals and treatments can be discovered, produced, clinically tested, and manufactured in one location. TRI is a major new wet lab research facility located on the Princess Alexandra Hospital teaching campus. TRI houses over 650 researchers and students, combining clinical and translational research to advance progress from laboratory discovery to application in the community.

The University of Queensland Biological Resources (UQBR) manages the Biological Resources Facility (BRF) on behalf of TRI. The facility was commissioned in 2013, operates as a TRI core facility and is critical to successful research outcomes.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is [available online](#).

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of the position is to provide advanced technical and administrative support in order to facilitate research projects and services involving animals at the Translational Research Institute. This role primarily focus will be on providing research services but may also be required to work across the other duties outlined below depending on operation requirements.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include the following depending on area operational requirements, but are not limited to:

Animal Husbandry and Breeding Services

- Perform standard husbandry care (feeding, watering, cage changing, health checks, euthanasia, ID marking) for rodents
- Perform standard breeding husbandry including animal identification, weaning, sexing, tissue collection, breeder pair setup
- Provide (and perform training in) colony management services for research groups including monitoring and optimising breeding performance, developing breeding plans to meet experimental cohort requirements, time matings, selection of breeders and excess animals based on genotype information in consultation with research groups and supervisor
- Perform colony health monitoring tasks including performing basic necropsies, collection and shipping of samples/ sentinel animals, selection of tests.

Research Services

- Review of animal ethics applications, provide feedback particularly on technical services and ensure that proposed practices meet the relevant requirements
- Perform basic animal procedures as a cost recovered service to researchers, such as substance delivery (IP, IV, SC, IM, oral gavage, intranasal), collection of samples (such as blood or tissues) surgical preparation/aftercare, collection of measurements (such as animal weights, scoring)
- Perform intermediate animal procedures such as injectable/gaseous anaesthesia, SC implants, tissue harvests
- Perform more advanced procedures such as intrafemoral, mammary fat pad, intrahepatic, intracecal, intratumoral injections or surgeries such as vasectomies, xenografts, nephrectomies, catheterisation
- Undertake planning and decision making in regard to research procedures and experimental steps based on broad direction from research groups and supervisors
- Prepare, administer restricted drugs to animals for research purposes

Operational

- Perform processing of equipment, cleaning and waste disposal
- Work in specialised areas such as PC3, cytotoxic, infectious, quarantine, gnotobiotics and radiation
- Perform record keeping in relation to operations and services, such as development of reports, inventory management, training, animal procedures
- Assist in liaising with researchers and booking of services
- Provide training in a variety of animal procedures, husbandry and operational duties
- Assist in the development and implementation of training materials
- Occasionally perform minor purchasing (consumables) and contribute to decisions on intermediate purchases
- Participation in the weekend/public holiday roster as required.
- Liaise with external technical and operational personnel as required

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
 - **Medical Clearance:** Working with laboratory animals is an inherent requirement of the position. The appointment is therefore subject to, and conditional upon, satisfactory medical clearance(s), including disclosure of relevant medical history, to undertake such work without unreasonable risk to your health and safety. In addition, the Employee is required to fully comply with necessary ongoing health monitoring procedures and control measures associated with the position.

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the Senior Facility Manager, UQ Biological Resources and on a daily basis, this position also reports primarily to the relevant area coordinator.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Completion of a degree in animal science; or Diploma; or Certificate III level qualification in the animal technology industry or other related fields; or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training which includes a minimum of 2 years' subsequent experience working in laboratory animal facilities
- Demonstrated experience of regularly performing techniques in rodents such as (injections, sample collection, surgery, anaesthesia and euthanasia)
- Demonstrated experience in supervision and training of other staff
- Demonstrated experience in planning and performing experiments
- Demonstrated clear and professional written and spoken communication skills, including the ability to advise research and animal facility staff by email, phone or in-person and the ability to present information and written reports
- Demonstrated decision making and trouble-shooting skills, utilising background information/experience to take action in the absence of complete information
- Demonstrated to effectively plan and prioritise own time and tasks and work flexibility across different areas of the facility based on general direction from supervisors
- Demonstrated understanding of the relevant regulatory requirements in regards to Animal Ethics, Biosafety, Biosecurity and Occupational Health and Safety
- Commitment to upholding the University's values, and with the outstanding personal qualities of openness, respectfulness and integrity

Desirable

- Demonstrated experience in advanced animal surgical procedures such as xenografts, catheterizations, mammary fat pad injections
- Demonstrated experience in managing Genetically Modified rodent production, colony management and genotyping and/or assisted reproductive technologies

Vaccinations and Immunisation

It is a condition of employment for this role that if you are required now or in the future, to work or interact in Queensland Health clinical facility; or in an equivalent clinical health facility; or health care role; or will be required to perform work tasks that put you at risk of exposure to vaccine-preventable disease you are required to be immunised against, and remain immunised against, certain vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) in accordance with the University's Vaccinations and Immunisation Guidelines (PPL 2.60.08). The employee is required to provide evidence of immunisation against VPDs.

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.