POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Biological Sciences
Position Number: 3042583
Type of Employment: Fixed term, Full Time
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 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 $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.

The Faculty of Science is recognised as a powerhouse for some of the world's leading scientists, teachers, science programs and commercial outcomes. The Faculty is one of the largest Science groupings in Australia, with approximately 1100 (equivalent full-time) staff, and about 7500 (equivalent full-time) students.

Throughout its Schools and Centres, the Faculty unites the disciplines of agriculture and animals, biomedical and biological sciences, chemistry, earth sciences, food sciences, geography, marine science, maths and physics, the environment and veterinary science.

With strong links between the enabling and applied sciences, UQ researchers and graduates are working on a wide range of groundbreaking projects from the molecular characterisation of drug resistant bacteria that affect piglets through to finding better treatments for illness and rehabilitation of the environment.

Information about the Faculty may be accessed on the Faculty’s web site: http://www.science.uq.edu.au/

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.

Applied entomological research in the School of Biological Sciences includes work on insect-plant relationships (including how these interactions can be manipulated for the improved management of insect pests), host-parasitoid and host-pathogen interactions, the evolution and management of insecticide resistance, insect population dynamics, population genetics and integrated pest management. Currently funded research projects in the lab are investigating the biology and ecology of a range of insect pest species in Australia and several Pacific island countries to develop sustainable approaches to pest management.

Further information and details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s web site at http://www.biology.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
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position
To undertake and manage collaborative research relating to the biological control of insect pests in selected Pacific Island countries.

Duties
Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Teaching and Learning
- Co-supervision of graduate research students within the research group.

Research
- Participate in the design and implementation of appropriate experiments relating to the biological control and integrated management of insect pests in selected Pacific Island countries.
- Collaborate with project research partners in Australia and Pacific Island countries.
- Manage, co-ordinate and participate in all activities required for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of biological control projects in selected Pacific Island countries. This will require spending significant periods of time in collaborating Pacific Island countries.
- Collect and analyse data from experiments.
- Write and publish high quality peer-reviewed academic articles in collaboration with other members of the project team.

Service and Engagement
- Assist in communication and dissemination of research.
- Collaborate with national and international research partners involved in the project.
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor.

Administration
- Carry out administrative tasks necessary to support project work.
- Supervise the work of research assistants.
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 Assoc. Prof Mike Furlong, supervises research assistants and contributes to the supervision of graduate students.
SELECTION CRITERIA

- PhD in Entomology.
- Research experience in biological control of insect pests.
- Proven ability to conduct large field experiments, manage and analyze the data and publish high quality research work.
- Proven project management skills, including the ability to lead research projects, to work collaboratively in team environments and to manage interactions with collaborating staff.
- The ability to work with a high degree of autonomy.
- High-level inter-personal and communication skills, including experience in cross-cultural environments.
- Experience in molecular methods and the application of these in applied entomology research (desirable).
- Experience of conducting research in developing countries (desirable).
- Valid driving license.

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.

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 the contact person listed in the job advertisement.