POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term (2 years)
Classification: Research Academic 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 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 $11 billion+ (see http://uniqquest.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 Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) is part of the Faculty of Science and is located on the St Lucia campus (Brisbane) of the University. It has 104 academic staff, and 23 administrative and technical staff. There is a large contingent of research appointments and the School has been active in establishing a range of adjunct positions in order to promote engagement with leaders in government and the professions.

SEES hosts world-class facilities which include a state-of-art planning studio, GIS computer laboratories, sample preparation facilities and a complex analytical infrastructure that includes radiogenic and stable isotopes, major and trace element geochemistry, noble gas geochemistry and geochronology, coal petrology and organic geochemistry, geomicrobiology and fluid inclusion facilities. (see https://sees.uq.edu.au/research/analytical-facilities for details).

A recently built geomicrobiology laboratory provides culturing facilities for aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms, including a coy anaerobic chamber, a photosynthetic growth chamber, fluorescence microscopy, and sample preparation for SEM and TEM analyses of bacteria-mineral interactions. In addition, the School maintains close links with the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, a Major National Research Facility that provides access to electron microscopes (SEMs and TEMs), electron microprobes, X-ray diffractometers, nano-SIMS, surface analysis capabilities, and a host of other modern analytical instrumentation.

Further information and details on the research interests of academic staff in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences can be found on the web at http://www.sees.uq.edu.au/.

Queensland Centre for Population Research (QCPR)

The Queensland Centre for Population Research (QCPR) is a formally constituted research Centre within the School of SEES which undertakes pure and applied research and provides education and training in demography and population geography. The work of the Centre focuses especially on demographic change at the local and regional level, both within Australia and overseas and encompasses theory, methodology and empirical analysis. While the Centre undertakes a wide range of research projects, it has particular expertise in the fields of population mobility, internal migration and the development of demographic forecasting models. The centre includes academics, research staff and doctoral students and is funded through national and international competitive grants, and through collaborative partnerships with government.

Further information and details of the research interests of QCPR staff may be accessed on the school’s web site https://sees.uq.edu.au/queensland-centre-population-research

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-ug

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

Primary Purpose of Position

The successful candidate will work across various projects housed in QCPR and primarily on an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage project: Reclaiming lost ground: Transitions of mobility and parking.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

The successful appointee will manage, undertake and document tasks across the various projects. Specific tasks will include:

- Relevant literature searches;
- Liaison with industry partners and data providers;
- Compilation and management of large and complex demographic datasets;
- Application of visualisation and statistical routines using appropriate statistical (e.g. STATA and/or the R programming environment) and geographic visualisation software (e.g. ArcGIS);
- Documentation of the data, statistical and visual outputs;
- Contribute to the development and publication of scholarly papers in high quality outlets;
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research projects;
- Assist in the development of research proposals for emerging grant opportunities.

Service and Engagement

- Foster the School’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community;
- Perform a range of administrative functions in the School;
- 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 Professor Jonathan Corcoran.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

• PhD in the area of human geography, social sciences, demography, the spatial sciences or a closely related area;

• Demonstrated expert knowledge in the area of analytical human geography and the spatial sciences;

• Sound knowledge of basic statistical methods and models, analytical and GIS software;

• Ability to work with complex spatial and temporal datasets including data on human spatial mobility;

• Evidence of ability to contribute to scholarly publications, including effective skills in written communication;

• Demonstrated experience with visualisation (e.g. ArcGIS) and statistical software (e.g. STATA and/or the R programming environment);

• A collegial approach to working collaboratively with colleagues in a small team environment and demonstrated experience in working as part of a team on large, social science research projects;

• A high level of drive and initiative and the ability to work with minimal supervision.

Desirable

• An understanding of the settlement geography of Australia;

• A sound knowledge of Australian statistical datasets including data from the population Census and other ABS statistical collection;

• Experience in liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop and implement co-operative research initiatives.

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.