Postdoctoral Research Fellow

College/Division  Science and Engineering
School/Section  Natural Sciences – Biological Sciences.
Location  Hobart
Classification  Academic Level A
Reporting line  Reports to Associate Professor

Position Summary
The University of Tasmania is building a vision of a place-based University with a mission to enhance the intellectual, economic, social and culture future of Tasmania, and from Tasmania, contribute to the world in areas of distinctive advantage. The University recognises that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ as well as creating a people-centred University that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

The Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture is a research Centre within the School of Natural Sciences. The ARC CoE for Plant Success is administered at The University of Queensland and has Nodes at the University of Tasmania, Monash University, Macquarie University and Queensland University of Technology. With a uniquely multidisciplinary team, the Centre will deliver new strategies to address the problems of food security and climate change, establishing Australia as a global leader in these areas. The CoE is committed to developing leaders in plant science and have internal travel and research schemes to support the development of postdoctoral research fellows.

We are seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work in the ARC CoE in the School of Natural Sciences which is part of the College of Science and Engineering.

This position will contribute to a key project within the Centre led by Chief Investigator A/Prof Eloise Foo entitled 'Domestication underground - exploring nutrient acquisition and hormone signaling strategies'. The project will involve collaboration with other Chief Investigators including Prof David Jordan at the University of Queensland and interaction with Dr David Nichols in Central Science Laboratory at University of Tasmania. This project aims to understand how plants balance direct nutrient acquisition with the formation of symbioses with microbes and to examine how modification of hormone signalling through crop breeding has influenced beneficial plant-microbe symbioses. The Research Fellow will discover new mechanisms of how plants establish, regulate, and obtain benefit from symbioses by integrating our understanding of core symbiotic and hormone pathways. Through interaction with other projects within the CoE this project should ultimately inform future breeding strategies. The position will require recognised expertise in plant physiology, development and molecular genetics and some experience of bioinformatics. The Research Fellow will interact with stakeholders and collaborators, be engaged in project reporting and the supervision of HDR and undergraduate students working on the project. The appointee will be expected to operate with some degree of independence following general direction from supervisor, to interact positively and productively with other researchers participating in the project, in the research group, and other members of the School.

We are an inclusive workplace committed to ‘working from the strength that diversity brings’ reflected in our Statement of Values. We are dedicated to attracting, retaining and developing our people and are committed to inclusive principles. We celebrate the range of diverse assets that gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age and life course bring. Applications are encouraged from all sectors of the community. Tell us how we can make this job work for you.
What You’ll Do

• Make an effective and sustained contribution to the University in achieving its strategic objectives and fulfilling its operational responsibilities.

• Undertake research on the physiology and genetics of beneficial plant-microbe interactions (nodulation and arbuscular mycorrhizal symbioses) including the role of plant hormones,
  
  o Undertake original research, conception of ideas, execution of bioinformatic, glasshouse, transgenic and laboratory research and the analysis and presentation of results,
  
  o Assist with the supervision of HDR and undergraduate students, providing mentoring and experimental advice, and assistance with thesis/manuscript preparation,

• Actively engage with other project members, collaborators and stakeholders and contribute to project planning and the integration of laboratory and computational work.

• Prepare scientific papers, liaise with agreed stakeholders and when agreed, submit for publication.

• Contribute to the preparation of progress reports to agreed stakeholders, ensuring reporting obligations to grants are met and recommendations on future directions for the research are provided.

• Participate in communal research support activities within the research group, including administration of research resources and preparation of laboratory materials.

• Participate in the wider activities of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture, including supporting various committees and participating in outreach activities.

• Contribute to the development and maintenance of productive and effective links inside the University and locally and nationally with the discipline, relevant interdisciplinary domains, profession, industry and/or wider community.

• If required undertake scholarly teaching of a high quality. Specifically, the delivery of lectures, tutorials and laboratories as allocated by the Head of Discipline and coordination of the delivery and development of appropriate teaching materials for undergraduate units.

• Undertake other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

What We’re Looking For

• A PhD in plant biology, specialising in developmental genetics, physiology and/or plant-microbe interactions.

• A highly motivated individual who will use this as an opportunity to launch their research career.

• Demonstrated experience with plant development, molecular biology, physiology and bioinformatic analyses.

• Demonstrated ability to work independently within established guidelines using discretion and sound judgement.

• Demonstrated well-developed written and oral communication skills, including publications in refereed journals and presentations at conferences/other events.

• Ability to work effectively as part of a team.

• Experience in working as a part of a team to collaboratively write and publish scientific papers.

• Experience in supervising undergraduate and Honours projects, or the capacity to do so.

• Well developed computer skills.
Other position requirements

- Laboratory and workshop activities and handling hazardous substances.

University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania is an institution with an enduring commitment to our state and community, and a strong global outlook. We are committed to enhancing the intellectual, economic, social and cultural future of Tasmania. Our Strategic Direction strongly reflects the University community's voice that our University must be place based but globally connected as well as regionally networked and designed to deliver quality access to higher education for the whole State.

We believe that from our unique position here in Tasmania we can impact the world through the contributions of our staff, students and graduates. We recognise that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ, as well as creating a university that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

Check out more here:

https://www.utas.edu.au/jobs


The intention of this position description is to highlight the most important aspects, rather than to limit the scope or accountabilities of this role. Duties above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.