

Position Title:	Graduate Research Assistant (Fish Ecology)
Position Classification:	Level 5
Position Number:	316564
Faculty/Office:	Faculty of Science
School/Division:	Biological Sciences
Centre/Section:	NESP Northern Australia Hub
Supervisor Title:	Professor/Project Leader
Supervisor Position Number:	314245

Your work area

This position is funded by the National Environmental Science Program. The position will work within collaborative research teams focussed on studying the links between land management and river health in northern Australia. Research will be undertaken in the Fitzroy River, Kimberley region, and Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory.

Reporting Structure

The successful applicant will report directly to the Chief Investigator, Professor Michael Douglas (UWA). The incumbent will also need to liaise frequently with senior team members Associate Professor Brad Pusey (CDU) and Associate Professor Samantha Setterfield (UWA), and with other NESP Fitzroy River projects being run by partner institutions (e.g. Griffith University, CSIRO).

Reports to: Professor / Project Leader (314245)

Your role

This position will work within collaborative research teams focussed on studying the links between land management and river health in northern Australia. Research will primarily be undertaken in the Fitzroy River, Kimberley region. The position is funded by the National Environmental Science Program. Research will assist land management agencies to understand the impact of water extraction, fire management, and other land management activities on the river ecology. Research will be conducted within multidisciplinary teams addressing gaps in understanding of the importance of water and rivers to Indigenous people and assessing impacts on in-stream and riparian biota and on the indigenous cultural and social values. The position will require significant amounts of time in northern Australia.

Key responsibilities

As the appointee you will, under limited direction, provide a high level of assistance to researchers.

- Conduct literature reviews
- Provide some innovation and input into planning and design of experiments
- Undertake research activities under the supervision of senior staff
- Collect ecological field-data including sampling, identifying and collecting trait data on aquatic species, particularly fish, along with the associated site information. This will include extensive periods of fieldwork in northern Australia.

- Undertake laboratory activities including processing of samples and the presentation of data from experiments to researcher with analysis
- Undertake administrative and communication activities to ensure the project team meets conditions of entry to land under a number of tenures.
- Contribute to the publication of scientific reports, peer-review papers, milestone reports, and social media
- Ensure field and laboratory equipment is adequately maintained to meet relevant OH&S standards.
- Assist in procurement of required goods and services
- Provide research project support in administrative functions, meetings, communications, reporting, and marketing
- Liaise with appropriate managers and scientists of the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Charles Darwin University, CSIRO, WA and NT Government departments, and other relevant organisations.
- Other duties as directed.

Your specific work capabilities (selection criteria)

- Relevant degree with subsequent relevant experience and/or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training in the areas of Ecology or Environmental Science.
- Experience in ecological field research, particularly in freshwater fish sampling and processing
- Ability to undertake laboratory analysis with accuracy and precision in the field of aquatic ecology
- Ability to undertake basic statistical analysis and graphical presentation of ecological data
- Ability to use GIS
- Highly developed and effective interpersonal and communication skills
- Demonstrated organisational skills and demonstrated ability to set priorities and to meet deadlines
- Ability to work independently, show initiative and work productively as part of a team

Desirable

- Fish taxonomic/ identification training
- Proven ability to work with diverse groups of collaborators

Special Requirements

- Experience in field research in remote and/or tropical locations; including competency in driving 4WD vehicles and operating boats (preferably with certification)
- Undertake Interstate Travel
- Significant periods of fieldwork in remote locations
- Occasional weekend work

Compliance

Workplace Health and Safety

All supervising staff are required to undertake effective measures to ensure compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 and related University requirements (including Safety, Health and Wellbeing Objectives and Targets).

All staff must comply with requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and all reasonable directives given in relation to health and safety at work, to ensure compliance with University and Legislative health and safety requirements.

Details of the safety obligations can be accessed at <http://www.safety.uwa.edu.au>

Equity and Diversity

All staff members are required to comply with the University's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and Equity and Diversity principles. Details of the University policies on these can be accessed at http://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/publications/code_of_ethics, <http://www.equity.uwa.edu.au>