

Position Title:	Graduate Research Assistant (Riparian Ecology)
Position Classification:	Level 5
Position Number:	316565
Faculty/Office:	Faculty of Science
School/Division:	Biological Sciences
Centre/Section:	NESP Northern Australia Hub
Supervisor Title:	Associate Professor/Project Leader
Supervisor Position Number:	314144

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, Associate Professor Samantha Setterfield (UWA), and will be co-supervised by Professor Michael Douglas (UWA). The incumbent will also work closely with Dr Natalie Rossiter-Rachor (CDU) and other NESP partner institutions.

Reports to: Associate Professor/Project Leader (314144)

Your role

This position will work within collaborative research teams working on several research projects in northern Australia. This includes research on the links between land management and riparian health in northern Australia and the distribution and impacts of grassy weed invasion on fire behaviour. Research will be undertaken in the Fitzroy River, Kimberley region, and Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, and Cape York, Queensland. The position is funded by the National Environmental Science Program and the Bushfires and Natural Hazards CRC. This research will assist land managers to understand and manage the impacts of land management activities, particularly water extraction and fire management, on the ecology and function of riparian vegetation. 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 ecological and plant identification. This will include extensive periods of fieldwork in northern Australia and regular trips to work with collaborators at Charles Darwin University.

- 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 training and assistance to staff
- 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 qualification 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 plant ecology
- Ability to undertake laboratory analysis with accuracy and precision in the field of plant ecology/plant sciences
- Ability to undertake basic statistical analysis and graphical presentation of ecological data
- Experience in GIS/Spatial Analysis
- 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

- Plant taxonomic/plant ID training
- Proven ability to work with diverse groups of collaborators
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to technical publications, including reports and scientific publications.

Special Requirements

Experience working in a remote/harsh field conditions, including competency in driving 4WD vehicles

Undertake regular 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>