



**Australian
National
University**

Position Description

College/Division:	ANU College of Science
Faculty/School/Centre:	Research School of Biology
Department/Unit:	Division of Plant Science
Position Title:	Postdoctoral Fellow
Classification:	Level A
Position No:	
Responsible to:	Associate Professor Benjamin Schwessinger
Number of positions that report to this role:	0
Delegation(s) Assigned:	

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

The ANU College of Science (CoS) encompasses the disciplines of: Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Environment and Society, Mathematics, Physics, Science Communication and is also home to cross-disciplinary and specialist Institutes and Centres. Staff and students within the ANU College of Science conduct research and deliver a research-led education program that encompasses the entire breadth of the sciences, supported by extensive international networks and by world-class facilities.

The Research School of Biology is a leading centre of molecular plant pathology and fungal genome biology research in Australia. Researchers have a tradition of excellence in addressing the world's most pressing pathogen evolution issues, including leading research in cereal rust biology and evolution.

The Postdoctoral Fellow is expected to undertake work in all three areas of academic activity – research, education and service (including outreach). The allocation of time to each area will be discussed with the position supervisor annually and be reflective of the external funding conditions that support the appointment, the appointees research agenda, school and interdisciplinary teaching requirements and leadership opportunities within the School environment.

The Postdoctoral Fellow may also be required to supervise or assist in the supervision of students, and contribute cooperatively to the overall intellectual life of the School, College and University.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITY AREAS:

Position Dimension and Relationships:

The Postdoctoral Fellow will be a member of Research School of Biology, accountable to the Head, Department of Plant Science and Director of the School. The Postdoctoral Fellow will be expected to work collegially, leading by example to develop and maintain effective, productive and beneficial workplace relationships within the all-academic and professional School and College staff, students and honorary appointees, as well as with industry stakeholders. This position will also have a mentoring role for students and will engage in collegial and productive collaborations with local, national and where possible, international colleagues.

Role Statement:

In their role as an Academic Level A the Postdoctoral Fellow is expected to:

- Undertake independent research in the area of cereal rust fungal biology and molecular plant pathogen interaction with a view to publishing original and innovative results in refereed journals, present research at academic seminars and at national and international conferences, and collaborate with other researchers at a national level.
- Collaborate with senior staff to actively seek and secure external funding, assist to prepare and submit research proposals to external funding bodies as appropriate.
- Contribute to the teaching activities of the School at the undergraduate and graduate levels. This includes, but is not limited to, the preparation and delivery of lectures and tutorials, the preparation of online material, marking and assessment, consultations, and with students or acting as subject coordinators.

- Supervise students working on individual or group projects at undergraduate, honours, graduate-coursework levels. Assist with supervision of research students.
- Assist to supervise research support staff in your research area.
- Actively contribute to all aspects of the operation of the School.
- Assist in outreach activities including to prospective students, research institutes, industry, government, the media and the general public.
- Maintain high academic standards in all education, research and administration endeavours.
- Take responsibility for their own workplace health and safety and not willfully place at risk the health and safety of another person in the workplace.
- A demonstrated understanding of equal opportunity principles and policies and a commitment to their application in a university context.
- Other duties as required that are consistent with the classification of the position.
- Comply with all ANU policies and procedures, and in particular those relating to work health and safety and equal opportunity

Skill Base:

A Level A academic will work with the support and guidance from more senior academic staff and is expected to develop their expertise in teaching and research with an increasing degree of autonomy. A Level A academic will normally have completed four years of tertiary study or equivalent qualifications and experience and may be required to hold a relevant higher degree.

A Level A academic will normally contribute to teaching at the institution, at a level appropriate to the skills and experience of the staff member, engage in scholarly, research and/or professional activities appropriate to their profession or discipline, and undertake administration primarily relating to their activities at the institution. The contribution to teaching of Level A academics will be primarily at undergraduate and graduate diploma level.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- A PhD (or awarding of a PhD within six months of appointment commencement) in biology including but not limited to molecular plant pathology or fungal biology, or equivalent qualifications and experience in a related area, with a track record of independent research in the field of biology or computational biology as evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed journals and conferences.
- Evidence of the ability to articulate and prosecute innovative research in the field of biology including but not limited to computational biology, genome evolution, fungal biology, and/or molecular plant pathogen interactions.
- An ability and commitment to contribute to bids for competitive external funding to support individual and collaborative research activities.
- Evidence of an ability and willingness to teach at all levels.
- The ability to assist in the supervision of students working on research projects.
- The ability to work as part of a team and to meet deadlines.
- Excellent oral and written English language skills and a demonstrated ability to communicate and interact effectively with a variety of staff and students in a cross-disciplinary academic environment and to foster respectful and productive working relationships with staff, students and colleagues at all levels.
- A demonstrated understanding of equal opportunity principles and policies and a commitment to their application in a university context.

The ANU conducts background checks on potential employees, and employment in this position is conditional on satisfactory results in accordance with the Background Checking Procedure which sets out the types of checks required by each type of position.

Supervisor/Delegate Signature:		Date:	22/02/2023
Printed Name:	Benjamin Schwessinger	Uni ID:	

References:

[General Staff Classification Descriptors](#)
[Academic Minimum Standards](#)



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Pre-Employment Work Environment Report

Position Details

College/Div/Centre	College of Science	Dept/School/Section	Research School of Biology
Position Title	Postdoctoral Fellow	Classification	Academic Level A
Position No.		Reference No.	

In accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth) the University has a primary duty of care, so far as reasonably practicable, to ensure the health and safety of all staff while they are at work in the University.

- This form must be completed by the supervisor of the advertised position and appended to the back of the Position Description.
- This form is used to advise potential applicants of work environment and health and safety hazards prior to application.
- Once an applicant has been selected for the position they must familiarise themselves with the University WHS Management System via Handbook guidance <https://services.anu.edu.au/human-resources/health-safety/whs-management-system-handbook>
- The hazards identified below are of generic nature in relation to the position. It is not correlated directly to training required for the specific staff to be engaged. Identification of individual WHS training needs must be in accordance with WHS Local Training Plan and through the WHS induction programs and Performance Development Review Process.
- 'Regular' hazards identified below must be listed as 'Essential' in the Selection Criteria - see 'Employment Medical Procedures' at http://info.anu.edu.au/Policies/_DHR/Procedures/Employment_Medical_Procedures.asp

Potential Hazards

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please indicate whether the duties associated with appointment will result in exposure to any of the following potential hazards, either as a regular or occasional part of the duties. 			
TASK	regular	occasional	
key boarding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
lifting, manual handling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
repetitive manual tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Organizing events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
fieldwork & travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
driving a vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
NON-IONIZING RADIATION			
solar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ultraviolet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
infra red	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
laser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
radio frequency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CHEMICALS			
hazardous substances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
allergens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
cytotoxics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
mutagens/teratogens/ carcinogens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
pesticides / herbicides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
TASK	regular	occasional	
laboratory work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
work at heights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
work in confined spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
noise / vibration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
IONIZING RADIATION			
gamma, x-rays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
beta particles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
nuclear particles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS			
microbiological materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
potential biological allergens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
laboratory animals or insects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
clinical specimens, including blood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
genetically-manipulated specimens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
immunisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
OTHER POTENTIAL HAZARDS (please specify):			
Supervisor/Delegate Name:		<i>Benjamin Schwessinger</i>	Date: <i>22/02/2023</i>