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| **Position Description** |

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| **Research only – Research Officer** |
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| **Position No:** | 50142021 |
| **Department:** | Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences |
| **School:** | Life Sciences |
| **Campus/Location:** | Melbourne (Bundoora) |
| **Classification:** | LEVEL A – Research Officer |
| **Employment Type:** | Full-time, fixed term |
| **Position Supervisor:** **Number:** | Senior Lecturer50112980 |
| **Other Benefits:** | <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits>  |

Further information about:

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

School of Life Science, Centre for AgriBioscience – <http://latrobe.edu.au/agribio>

**For enquiries only contact:**

Dr Mathew G Lewsey, Email: lewsey@lewseylab.org

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| **Position Description** |

**Level A – Research Officer**

A Level A research only academic is expected to carry out independent and/or team research within the relevant field and carry out activities to develop their research expertise relevant to the particular field of research.

**Position Context**

*This position is to conduct research on medicinal plants in collaboration with a corporate partner, TPI Enterprises (*[*http://www.tpienterprises.com)*](http://www.tpienterprises.com))*. Our team conducts cutting-edge research on maximizing yields of pharmaceutically valuable compounds produced by* Papaver somniferum *and its tolerance to herbicides*. *The research is diverse, incorporating aspects of plant molecular biology, high-throughput sequencing, biochemistry, controlled environment growth experiments and agronomy. Applicants should desire to work in a fast-paced environment that blends the best of academic and corporate research. This position will be based at the Centre for AgriBioscience, which is a $280M state of the art facility opened in 2013 at the La Trobe Bundoora campus. It will include regular site visits to work with the team at TPI Enterprises.*

**Duties at this level may include:**

* Conduct genetic mutation, tissue culture and transformation.
* Conduct lab molecular biological experiments.
* Make regular on-site visits to our corporate partner.
* Co-ordinate field trials.
* Conduct and publish, or otherwise disseminate high quality and/or high impact research as a member of a team and independently.
* Develop and contribute to writing up research findings for reporting to corporate partners.
* Contribute to the preparation or, where appropriate, individual preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding sources.
* Engage with industry to ensure that research results are communicated and understood.
* Supervise research support staff involved in the staff member's research.
* Acquire and interpret research data and results. Run analyses and tests using specified and agreed techniques and models. Contribute to the development of techniques, models and methods.
* Contribute to a robust and ambitious research culture.
* Co-supervise or, where appropriate supervise Higher Degree by Research (HDR) postgraduate students as required.
* Undertake other duties commensurate with the classification and scope of the position as required by the Head of Department or Head of School.

**Key Selection Criteria**

* Completion of a PhD or equivalent qualifications or research experience. This is a CSIRO SIEF STEM+ Business Fellowship, the incumbent must be eligible for the program and must have no more than 6 years relevant experience since conferral of their PhD.
* Experience in plant tissue culture, EMS mutagenesis, mutant screening and gene-editing.
* Demonstrated technical ability in lab molecular biology and plant biology.
* A record of publications, conference papers and/or reports, or professional or technical contributions which provide evidence of strong research potential.
* Sound analytical skills with an ability to communicate complex information clearly both orally and in writing.
* Organisational skills: the ability to set priorities, meet deadlines, initiate and follow-up actions, all with minimal or no supervision.
* Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and productively with staff and students from a diverse range of backgrounds.
* Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
* Ability to liaise effectively with collaborators and/or industry partners nationally and/or internationally.
* Evidence of the ability to work as a member of a team in a co-operative and collegial manner.
* Demonstrated high level of self-motivation and personal management skills.

**Other relevant information:**

* The position description is indicative of the initial expectation of the role and subject to changes to University goals and priorities, activities or focus of the job.

**Essential Compliance Requirements**

To hold this La Trobe University position the occupant must:

* complete, upon request by the University, a fitness and propriety declaration in its prescribed form;
* provide timely notification to the University in one or more of the following circumstances (as amended from time to time):
	+ where the occupant has ever been determined not to be a fit and proper person as prescribed under any law of the Commonwealth, State or Territory of Australia, or of another country, and if so, details as to whether that determination remains in place; and
	+ where the occupant has had a change in circumstances which would likely affect responses provided as part of their fitness and propriety declarations;
* hold, or be willing to undertake and pass, a Victorian Working With Children Check, and a National Police Check; AND
* take personal accountability to comply with all University policies, procedures and legislative or regulatory obligations; including but not limited to TEQSA and the Higher Education Threshold Standards.

**La Trobe Cultural Qualities**

Our cultural qualities underpin everything we do. As we work towards realising the strategic goals of the University we strive to work in a way which is aligned to our four cultural qualities:

* We are***Connected****:* We connect to the world outside — the students and communities we serve, both locally and globally.
* *We are* ***Innovative****:* We tackle the big issues of our time to transform the lives of our students and society.
* *We are* ***Accountable:*** We strive for excellence in everything we do. We hold each other and ourselves to account, and work to the highest standard.
* *We* ***Care:*** We care about what we do and why we do it. We believe in the power of education and research to transform lives and global society. We care about being the difference in the lives of our students and communities.

For Human Resource Use Only

Initials: Date: