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| **Position Description** |

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| **Research only - Research Officer** |
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| **Position No:** |       |
| **Department:** | 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:** | Dr Monika Doblin 50142229 |
| **Other Benefits:** | <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits>  |

Further information about:

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

College of Science Health and Engineering – http://latrobe.edu.au/she

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

**For enquiries only contact:**

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| **Position Description** |

**Reserach Officer - Full-time, Fixed term**

**Position Context**

This position will be based within the Bacic laboratory at the Centre for AgriBioscience (AgriBio), which is a $280M state of the art facility opened in 2013 at the La Trobe University Bundoora campus. The appointee will be part of the newly established La Trobe Institute for Agriculture & Food (LIAF). LIAF’s mission is to nurture and connect the critical mass of intellectual expertise required to meet the food and nutrition needs for a growing population in a resource-constrained world.

Specifically, the position will contribute to supporting the research of the Institute’s ARC Linkage Project on pilot-scale production of therapeutically-active cannabinoids from cannabis. Working with UTT Biopharmaceuticals, we aim to select elite clones from genetically diverse cannabis strains for yield of minor, but therapeutically-active, cannabinoids and in collaboration with The University of Melbourne develop pilot-scale production.

**Duties will include:**

* Conduct and publish, or otherwise disseminate high quality and/or high impact research/ scholarly activities under limited supervision either independently or as part of a team.
* 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.
* Maintain detailed notes on experimental work in hard-copy and/or electronic form.
* Supervise and provide technical advice to Honours and postgraduate students.
* Attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the unit to which the research is connected.
* Develop a limited amount of research-related material for teaching or other purposes with appropriate guidance from more senior staff.
* Participate in professional activities including presentations at conferences and seminars in field of expertise.
* Assist in obtaining research funding from external sources.
* Contribute to and uphold a robust and ambitious research culture.
* Undertake administrative functions primarily connected with the area of research.
* At all times conduct work in a safe manner and comply with OH&S instructions, policies and procedures.
* 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**

**ESSENTIAL**

* Completion of a PhD degree in the relevant molecular sciences discipline.
* Capacity to conduct innovative and high-impact research and produce conference and seminar papers and publications resulting from that research.
* Demonstrated experience in a range of molecular biology techniques including, but not limited to, nucleic acid extraction, PCR, DNA cloning, sequencing and analysis.
* Experience with a range of stable and transient plant transformation technologies e.g. Agrobacterium-mediated transformation, biolistic bombardment.
* Experience in the supervision of Higher Degree by Research (HDR), Honours and postgraduate (MSc and PhD) students and research projects.
* Experience in the gathering, analysis and modelling of data, including the capacity to integrate data from a range of sources and of uneven quality.
* Evidence of experience in research and evaluation and the ability to work effectively under limited supervision or independently.
* A record of contribution to publications, conference papers and/or reports, or professional or technical contributions which provide evidence of research potential.
* Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
* Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team in a cooperative and collegial manner.
* Demonstrated high level of self-motivation and personal management skills.

**DESIRABLE**

* Experience in working in laboratories conducting research under compliance regulatory requirements such as those defined by the ODC for cannabis.
* Competent in the use of modern microscopic modalities (light, confocal and/or electron microscopy).
* Demonstrated experience with high throughput DNA/RNA sequencing and data analysis.
* Biochemistry skills such as protein extraction, SDS-PAGE and protein quantification assays.
* Plant growth and maintenance experience, particularly with cannabis.
* Plant tissue culture work such as generation of plantlets, hairy root cultures and/or maintenance of plant cell cultures

**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:

* hold, or be willing to undertake and pass, a Victorian Working With Children 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: