



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Technical Officer – Feedbase and Environment

May 2024

UNIVERSITY of 
TASMANIA

Position Summary

College / Division	College of Science and Engineering
School / Section	Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
Location	Launceston
Classification	<u>HEO Level 5</u>
Reports to	Team Leader, Feedbase and Environment, Livestock Production Centre
Direct reports	Not applicable
Delegation level	<u>No Delegation</u>

Position Overview

We are seeking to appoint a Technical Officer within the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) which is part of the College of Sciences and Engineering.

TIA delivers world leading research, industry development, extension and education programs with strong links to key stakeholders in industry and through its joint venture with the Tasmanian Government. The mission of TIA is to enable Tasmanian food producers and processors to accelerate primary sector productivity while maintaining and improving Tasmania's land and water quality for future generations.

The role of the Technical Officer is to work with research project chief investigators in the design and implementation of field and glasshouse experiments and demonstrations. The position will include performing duties associated with a range of feedbase and environment related projects. The technical officer's position is heavily pasture focused and will require skills such as germination and propagation of grasses, legumes and herbs, pasture establishment, trait characterisation, and seed production and processing.

About the University of Tasmania

Welcome to the University of Tasmania, your island campus 1,270 million years in the making. This is heightened education at a slower pace of life. A place that attracts the highest percentage of scientists per capita in the world. Home to towering temperate rainforests, 60,000 years of human knowledge and underground cultural experiences of legend. Take your time to breathe it all in.

Our journey began in 1890, with a seed of academic excellence sown on our island. We inspire and encourage people to flourish and thrive. Our unique circumstances have made us resilient, transforming us into creative problem solvers. Our success is a testament to our quiet determination and adaptability.

We are more than just a place of learning. We are a catalyst for economic growth, a beacon for literacy, a champion for health and a guardian of our environment. We generate powerful ideas for and from Tasmania. We invite inquiring minds, from near and far, to join us in our pursuit of the extraordinary.

Accountabilities and outcomes

Purpose

The core purpose of the role is to provide technical support to enable TIA to undertake and deliver research, demonstration and adoption activities that will assist in developing a more resilient feedbase for the grazing livestock industries.

Key Outcomes

The role will contribute to the success of externally and internally funded research and may involve interactions with funding bodies, State Government, private sector and red meat producer stakeholders.

- Delivery of characterisation data and regeneration of pasture seed for the Australian Pastures Genebank
- Establishment and data collection of field experiments for other funded projects that deliver to the Feedbase and Environment Cluster of the Livestock Production Centre.

Behavioural Expectations

We aim for everyone to have a positive experience at our university, and all staff contribute toward creating a university culture that is safe and supportive, enabling our community to flourish by:

- Treating all others – staff, students and community with fairness, equity and respect.
- Ensuring the workplace is an inspiring and safe place to be.
- Ensuring the workplace is free from harassment, bullying, victimisation and discrimination.

Success profile

Personal Attributes

- Detail Oriented: Produces high quality work through attention to detail, checking for errors and following procedures to finish tasks within specified timescales.
- Supportive: Understands others through listening and empathy, works well in a team and actively involves others by valuing individuals' unique perspectives.
- Structured: Works methodically to organise and plan tasks, upholds standards and works quickly, able to multitask to produce outcomes.
- Investigative: Readily takes up opportunities to learn and acquire new skills and is able to identify issues and make intuitive judgements.

Core Capabilities

- Holistic Decision Making: Able to form sound judgements based on all available information, considering the potential impacts of decisions from a broad range of perspectives before taking definitive action.
- Self-awareness and Interpersonal Skills: Recognises and regulates emotions and behaviour in the work context and effectively builds relationships with others to create a collaborative and empowering environment that enables people to achieve and thrive.
- Sustainability in Action: Brings multiple lenses of sustainability to work activities including financial, environmental and commercial sustainability.
- Community Engagement: Role models a genuine commitment to our mission and plays an active role contributing toward sustainable social, economic and cultural progress for the Tasmanian society we serve.

Role Specific Skills, Knowledge and Experience

- Experience in plant botany, with good understanding of pasture growth phases.
- Experience in seed production, harvesting and cleaning.
- Experience in plant propagation and pasture establishment.
- Good understanding and skills in agrichemical spraying.
- Good attention to detail in data collection and reporting.
- Tractor work experience desired.
- Basic knowledge of animal husbandry.
- Be able to identify risks and contribute to the development of risk assessments and exercise a high level of attention to Workplace Health and Safety processes and procedures.
- Competent in use of MS Excel, Word and in-field data collection technology.

Qualifications and Licences

- Current Australian 'C' class driver's licence.
- ChemCert certificate and ability to perform the application of agrichemicals using backpack, small sprayers and tractor sprayers.
- Tractor and machinery operation experience and necessary training (desirable).
- Medium rigid truck licence (desirable).
- Current Working with Vulnerable People registration (desirable).

Other Requirements

To be eligible for this position, you are required to hold Australian or New Zealand Citizenship, permanent residence or a valid visa that enables you to fulfil the requirements of this role.

As part of our commitment to a safe and inclusive workplace, employment history and criminal background checks may be conducted as part of the selection process.

Other requirements

- Regular intrastate travel to our Tasmanian campuses and field sites.
- Visiting and working in the field in remote locations, sometimes under challenging and uncomfortable weather conditions.
- Laboratory and workshop activities and handling hazardous substances.
- Undertaking manual handling and heaving lifting of objects up to 25kg.
- Willingness to undertake a medical assessment based on meeting the inherent position requirements.



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The intention of this Position Description is to highlight the most important aspects, rather than to limit the scope or accountabilities of this role. Duties may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position