



---

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Position Title:</b>     | Scientific Officer - Histology |
| <b>Organisation Unit:</b>  | School of Veterinary Science   |
| <b>Position Number:</b>    | 3008019                        |
| <b>Type of Employment:</b> | Full Time, Continuing          |
| <b>Classification:</b>     | Hew Level 5                    |
| <b>Location</b>            | Gatton                         |

## THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver **knowledge leadership for a better world**.

UQ ranks in the world's top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (45 ), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (51), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index; and secured a greater share of Australian Research Council grants in 2016 (\$24.5 million) than any other university nationally.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience –the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland's highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia's Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 230,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a \$1.7 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in

research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of \$11billion+ (see <http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record>).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and will have further success in this area as an important strategic aim going forward.

## **Organisational Environment**

The School of Veterinary Science has a rich history, having been founded in 1936, and with a reputation for graduating highly capable veterinarians. The Veterinary Science program at UQ has full accreditation with the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the American Veterinary Medical Association. The School also contributes to programs in veterinary technology and animal & veterinary bioscience. The respected QS World Rankings recently ranked UQ as 22<sup>nd</sup> in the world in the field of Veterinary Science.

The School of Veterinary Science has high quality facilities at the UQ Gatton Campus, providing the teaching, research and clinical infrastructure and resources to further develop its strong reputation as a leading provider of veterinary training, research and clinical care.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital is an organisational unit within the School that includes all of the School's outstanding clinical facilities. UQ VETS Equine Hospital is largely referral based hospital with advanced facilities and offers a 24 hour emergency medical and surgical service. UQ VETS Small Animal Hospital boasts the latest in veterinary medical and surgical diagnostic and treatment options and a 24 hour Emergency and Critical Care service for small animals including wildlife/exotics. UQ VETS Dayboro is a mixed practice 45 minutes north of Brisbane servicing both commercial and hobby farmers offering a balanced mix of small and large animals. The UQ VETS Clinical Studies Centre facilitates and provides support to pre-clinical and clinical training in companion animals as well as a renowned research hub for clinical and behavioural research. The Centre includes a 16 – table surgical teaching facility, and is also used for veterinary continuing education events. The Clinical Studies Centre is also home to the School's Pets-for-Life Adoption Program. UQ staff also supervise clinical placements at the RSPCA's Brisbane Animal Care Campus, Wacol.

The UQ Veterinary Laboratory Services provides an efficient pathology service to the hospitals and other clients through our core disciplines of clinical pathology, anatomical pathology, microbiology and parasitology. It also provides laboratory support for veterinary teaching and research.

The Animal Genetics Laboratory (AGL) is a commercial and research laboratory that provides genotyping services to cattle and alpaca producers and their organisations, mostly for parentage verification. It also provides genotyping, sequencing and quantitative PCR services to support research across all species.

The school opened the Student Clinical Skills Hub in May 2016. This facility houses a range of low and high fidelity models to reduce use of live animals and cadavers in teaching, and to enhance veterinary clinical skills training. With 24/7 swipe-card access, individual students can practice their clinical skills until they are confident and competent. The facility also has a simulated client communications laboratory with both static, online, and interactive simulations, and access to a range of training models to facilitate development of fine motor skills (e.g. suturing), procedural techniques, and cognitive/diagnostic competences.

Information about the Faculty and the School may be accessed on the Faculty's web site at <http://www.uq.edu.au/vetschool/>.

### **Information for Prospective Staff**

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - <http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq>

## **DUTY STATEMENT**

### **Primary Purpose of Position**

The primary role of the position is to provide support to the teaching, diagnostic services and research missions of the School of Veterinary Science. Histology is an essential component of the function of the diagnostic laboratory at the School of Veterinary Science. As well as providing an essential service for veterinary clinicians and other clients, it supports undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, and research. The position will achieve these goals through application of histological knowledge and skills. The successful applicant will be expected to proactively contribute to other diagnostic areas including clinical pathology.

### **Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Perform histological processing and special stains.
- Ensure laboratory is well stocked, equipment maintained and serviced and coordination of waste disposal.
- Maintain quality controls and accurate records.
- Assist in the teaching of laboratory skills in histology to postgraduate students and researchers.
- Perform routine sample accession, processing and reporting of results on samples submitted for histology.
- Liaise with clients on technical questions.
- Advise on specimen collection and processing techniques.
- Prepare, collate and send diagnostic reports.
- Participate in the School's operational and administrative processes, including timely processing of external accounts, inventories and purchasing of consumables.
- Liaise with duty pathologists to ensure the smooth handling of diagnostic cases.
- Technical support of research projects
- Assist with specimen reception and in other laboratories within the Diagnostic Service, as required.
- Train or assist other staff with diagnostic and research techniques and duties.
- Provide support to other areas of diagnostic services as required.
- Liaise with researchers regarding set up of experiments, sample analysis and results.
- Undertake training, conduct duties and maintain records to ensure compliance with best laboratory practice and various approvals requirements, including biosafety, OHS, and biosecurity/quarantine.
- Assist with the organisation, preparation and administration of undergraduate classes.

## **Other**

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including:

- the [University's Code of Conduct](#)
- requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related [OH&S responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University or Institute/School
- the adoption sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University [sustainability responsibilities and procedures](#)
- requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related [responsibilities and procedures](#) developed by the University

## **Organisational Relationships**

The position reports to the Senior Scientific Officer.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

### Essential

- Bachelors Degree in Science or related discipline majoring in Histology, Medical Laboratory Science, Veterinary Science or Veterinary Technology or equivalent combination of training and previous clinical laboratory experience.
- Advanced histological skills including at least 3 years' experience in histology and special staining techniques
- Good research skills (record keeping, hypothesis driven objectives etc).
- Computer literacy skills including Microsoft Office. Experience with computer based ordering and reporting programs would be an advantage.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- High level inter-personal and communication skills, with a commitment to excellent customer service.
- Good organisational skills.
- Commitment to excellence and an ability to work diligently and independently with a high level of accuracy to strict deadlines.

### Desirable

- Knowledge of NATA and other laboratory accreditation schemes, occupational health and safety, and biosafety.
- An interest in research and a desire participate in research particularly in histology.
- An avid interest or previous experience in the teaching and training of undergraduate and/ or post-graduate students.
- Honours degree or equivalent research training or experience.
- Laboratory teaching and research support experience involving clinical pathology.

**The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion.**

**Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For further information please contact our Australian Indigenous Employment Coordinator at: [atsi\\_recruitment@uq.edu.au](mailto:atsi_recruitment@uq.edu.au)**  
**Applications are also encouraged from women.**

**This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.**