Griffith UNIVERSITY
Queensland, Australia

Position Description

Position Title	Research Assistant – Soil Chemistry
Group/Portfolio	Griffith Sciences
Classification	RA2
Position Number	00062908
Reports To	Chief Investigator
Employment Type	Fixed Term

1.0 Position Purpose

- We are seeking a passionate Research Assistant in Soil and Environmental Biogeochemistry who is able to work collaboratively in a dynamic and multidisciplinary team. This role will support ongoing research projects through data collection and soil sample processing. This role will primarily be lab-based but may also assist the field technician with soil and plant sampling activities as required. The role will primarily focus on conducting soil physicochemical and biological analyses using established laboratory methods, while also contributing to the development of new analytical techniques in collaboration with researchers. This position may be extended depending upon the availability of external funding support.

2.0 Eligibility Requirements

- BSc or equivalent qualifications in chemistry, soil science or equivalent areas and work experience in sample processing and chemical analysis in a laboratory context.
- The applicant is expected to have some practical experience in a chemistry lab, and sound understanding of workplace health and safety (WHS) practices in laboratory environments.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills and be able to work collaboratively and effectively for multi-disciplinary projects in a team environment as well as independently.

3.0 Key Responsibilities

- Prepare soil, plant and other environmental samples for analysis, and this will involve sample processing and sieving, and treatment.
- Conduct chemical, physical and microbiological analysis on soil, plant and environmental samples, particularly in the area of carbon and nutrient analysis of soil and plant samples.
- Complete assigned lab analytical tasks within required timeframes and in accordance with direction from Lab Manager.
- Operate competently some of key lab equipment (e.g., Leco CN analyser, TOC analyser, Gas chromatograph and Segmented flow analyser), and provide maintenance support to the routine operation in the lab.
- Conduct chemical risk and field assessments and ensure the safe handling, storage, and disposal of chemicals, equipment, and samples, while following strict safety protocols.

- Coordinate activities with other program participants to ensure effective team communication and collaboration throughout the lifetime of the projects.
- Develop soil/plant analytical protocols in collaboration with researchers.
- Lead and promote compliance with relevant legislation and University policies and procedures, including research ethics, equity, and health & safety, laboratory standards and exhibit good practice in relation to same.
- Be a leading example of the principles and values embodied in the University's Code of Conduct, and behave, act and communicate at all times to reflect fairness, ethics and professionalism.

4.0 Key Capabilities

- Griffith University identifies the attributes of resilience, flexibility, creativity, digital literacy and entrepreneurship as critical to our graduates' success, in the rapidly changing future world of work. We have established a Griffith University Capability Development Framework to provide a common language of some of the non-technical organisation skills that will support our staff to thrive now and into the future. The Capability Development Framework will assist you to understand the current skill level of this position in the non-technical but critical skill domains that are increasingly important in a changing workplace context.

  To read about some of the non-technical organisation skills for this position, please see the Leads Others section of our Capability Development Framework.