

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Postdoctoral Researcher

POSITION DETAILS

Position Title	Postdoctoral Researcher in Plant Science
Classification	Academic Level A
Position Number	TBC
School/Office	School of Science
Division	Provost

POSITION PURPOSE

The Postdoctoral Researcher in Plant Science will contribute to a nationally significant research program investigating canola tolerance to acid soils across Australian grain-growing regions. Working within a multidisciplinary team, the position will undertake research involving high-throughput phenotyping, genomic analysis and field, glasshouse and laboratory experimentation to support the development of improved canola varieties.

The role will contribute to research outcomes through publication, presentation of findings, student supervision and collaboration with project partners and School of Science colleagues.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Conduct innovative research into canola tolerance to soil acidity, contributing to the advancement of knowledge in plant science and agricultural productivity.
2. Develop and apply phenotyping, molecular and genomic approaches to identify traits, genomic regions and candidate genes associated with acid soil tolerance.
3. Design, undertake and analyse field, glasshouse and laboratory experiments to generate high quality, reproducible research outcomes.
4. Disseminate research findings through peer reviewed publications, technical reports, presentations, conferences and stakeholder engagement activities.
5. Contribute to collaborative research programs by participating in interdisciplinary and multi institutional project activities and maintaining effective relationships with project partners.
6. Contribute to the development of future research opportunities through participation in research funding applications and related initiatives.
7. Maintain research data, records and practices in accordance with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and University policies and procedures
Provide mentoring and research support to students and make occasional contributions to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and outreach activities as required.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

1. A doctoral qualification in Agriculture, Plant Science, Molecular Biology, Plant Breeding or a related discipline.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and research experience in plant physiology, molecular biology, plant breeding and/or the investigation of abiotic stress tolerance mechanisms in plants.
3. Demonstrated experience undertaking field, glasshouse and laboratory-based plant research, including the collection, management and analysis of experimental data.
4. Demonstrated knowledge of genomic, genetic and bioinformatics approaches relevant to plant research, including QTL analysis and related methodologies.
5. Evidence of research achievement through publications, presentations and the capacity to contribute to the development of future research funding opportunities.
6. Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary research teams and communicate effectively with a range of stakeholders.
7. Demonstrated experience, or capacity, to mentor or supervise honours, masters research and/or higher degree research students.
8. Capacity and willingness to undertake field-based research in regional and remote locations, including holding or obtaining a current Australian driver's licence.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- **This position reports to:** Associate Professor in Intensive Food Production
- **This position supervises:** Nil
- **Key internal relationships:**
 - Executive Dean
 - Dean
 - Head of Discipline, Life Sciences
 - Academic colleagues in the discipline group, Faculty and University
 - Professional and colleagues within the Faculty and University
 - HDR students
- **Key external relationships:**
 - Project partners, industry and professional colleagues

CHALLENGES

- Conducting research across field, glasshouse and laboratory environments with varying operational and environmental constraints.
- Generating high-quality, reproducible research outcomes while managing complex datasets and methodologies.
- Working effectively within a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research team while balancing independent research responsibilities.
- Delivering research outputs and project milestones within funded project timeframes

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS

The University expects that all employees are aware of, and comply with legislation and Western's policies and procedures relevant to the position, including but not limited to:

- Code of Conduct
- Work Health and Safety and Wellbeing Management System
- Enterprise Agreement or Award
- Anti-discrimination principles, Equal Employment Opportunity and staff and student equity.

Approved by: People and Culture Partner
Date: 21 July 2026