POSITION DESCRIPTION

Postdoctoral Researcher

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

POSITION DETAILS

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

POSITION PURPOSE

The Postdoctoral Researcher in Agriculture will undertake independent and collaborative research contributing to the University's research objectives through the delivery of the "Novel Soil Amendments for Drought Resilient Cropping Systems" project. The role will generate research outcomes that advance understanding of drought resilience in cropping systems, contribute to research publications and funding opportunities, support research student development, and foster engagement with industry and research partners.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Conduct independent and collaborative research that advances knowledge of drought resilience, soil function and crop productivity in agricultural systems.
2. Design and deliver field and controlled environment research programs that generate high quality, reproducible and impactful research outcomes.
3. Analyse and interpret complex research data to inform evidence-based recommendations for improved soil and crop management practices.
4. Develop and disseminate research outputs through peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, presentations and stakeholder engagement activities.
5. Contribute to research funding initiatives by identifying opportunities and assisting in the preparation of competitive grant applications and project proposals.
6. Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with industry partners, research organisations and internal stakeholders to support project delivery and future research opportunities.
7. Co-supervise and mentor honours and higher degree research students to support research capability and student development.

8. Ensure compliance with research governance requirements and contribute to research administration, outreach activities and occasional teaching associated with the research program.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

1. A doctoral qualification in Agriculture, Plant Science, Soil Science or a related discipline.
2. Demonstrated postdoctoral research experience or equivalent research experience in improving abiotic stress tolerance in plants, preferably drought stress.
3. Demonstrated experience designing and conducting independent and collaborative research, including experimental design, data analysis and interpretation.
4. Demonstrated knowledge of soil-plant-water relations and experience using relevant field, laboratory or sensor-based research methodologies.
5. A track record of research outputs, including peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and other scholarly contributions relevant to the discipline.
6. Demonstrated ability to contribute to research funding applications, build productive stakeholder relationships and work effectively within multidisciplinary research teams.
7. Demonstrated experience, or capacity, to co-supervise and mentor honours and/or higher degree research students.
8. Excellent communication, organisational and relationship management skills, together with the 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 regional field sites with varying environmental, seasonal and operational constraints that can impact experimental design and project delivery.
- Integrating complex soil, plant, environmental and sensor-derived datasets to generate scientifically robust and reproducible research outcomes.
- Balancing independent research responsibilities with collaborative project delivery across a multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research environment.
- Delivering high-quality publications, stakeholder outcomes and project milestones within externally funded research 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: 23 July 2026