

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	Research Fellow National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life
Classification:	Level A or Level B
Supervisor:	Director, National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life
Position No:	4742
Incumbent:	Vacant

USC is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow to assist the Centre Director in setting research directions, collaborating with industry and coordinating projects across the partnership between USC, University of Queensland and Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Research Fellow will be an integral member of the National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life team.

Profile:

A Research Fellow plays a major role in research by leading research projects and supervising candidates for higher degrees by research. Evidence of the level of research can be demonstrated through publications in quality journals of national/international standing, national competitive grants and leadership as a supervisor and mentor. They make significant connections with and impact on their discipline/field, which is recognised and acknowledged by peers nationally.

In research, a Research Fellow (Level A) is developing their research profile. They make positive contributions to research projects; co/supervise honours students and candidates for higher degrees by research; participate in research teams; and are developing a track record of publishing in quality refereed journals. Whereas, a Research Fellow (Level B) has launched a research track record and is further developing their research profile. They make positive contributions to research projects; supervise honours students and candidates for higher degrees by research; play a part in successful grant applications; and are developing a track record of publishing in quality refereed journals

All staff are expected to contribute to the achievement of the University's strategic goals and priorities and provide service to the University commensurate with their level of appointment and the opportunities available to them.

Duties can include:

1. Be an effective researcher and provide leadership in research and research training by:
 - purposefully developing focused expertise in a relevant discipline/field;
 - developing a research agenda and participating in a research team(s);
 - framing research problems and researchable hypotheses;
 - designing and conducting research projects and writing research reports;
 - communicating research outcomes to both expert and lay audiences through publishing;

- successfully applying for research grants, particularly external competitive grants;
 - successfully supervising candidates for higher degrees by research;
 - contributing to the development and maintenance of a positive academic environment that is conducive to high levels of engagement and standards of performance in research;
 - Undertaking durability research associated with National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life, along with partners and colleagues nationally and internationally as required;
 - Coordinating Centre projects within scope, time and budget;
 - Establishing and maintaining research relationships with Centre research partners, industry bodies and members;
 - Analysing data to produce peer-reviewed scientific articles in top-tier journals;
 - Developing new grant proposals for continuation of work beyond the research fellow period;
 - General assistance to the Centre Director in the fulfilment of research and capacity building objectives of the respective projects;
2. Maintain substantial involvement in professional/community service as a scholarly practice through which discipline knowledge and skills are applied to consequential problems in the world beyond the University.
 3. Provide service to the University by contributing to the definition and achievement of its goals. This can include developing and maintaining strategic and productive partnerships, connections and relationships with people, groups and organisations at local, national and international levels.
 4. Other duties within the range of skills normally associated with this classification, including those associated with an evolving research, teaching, learning and professional environment. This can include participation in undergraduate teaching and supervision of Honours students.

Selection criteria:

For appointment at Level A or Level B, applicants will be considered and ranked according to the quality and trajectory of their track record,

Applicants need to demonstrate:

1. Completion of a doctoral qualification in a relevant field of mycology, plant pathology, materials science or wood science & engineering with a well-developed knowledge of the biodeterioration of cellulosic materials and its prevention.
2. Research experience including acknowledged research outputs, refereed publications in leading, high-impact, peer-reviewed journals related to the fields of wood science, biodeterioration or mycology, participation in diverse and interdisciplinary research teams and a research track record in disciplines related to timber deterioration and its prevention and sound knowledge of research methodologies relevant to the discipline/field.
3. Outreach activities (including engagement with external partners), including membership of and sound connections with relevant professional bodies and community groups and/or in professional practice.
4. Contribution to the development and maintenance of a positive academic environment which is conducive to engagement and achievement for both staff and students.
5. Strong personal qualities and collegial approaches that contribute to the development and maintenance of a positive academic environment and the development of new partnerships.

6. The desire to participate in academic development activities and continue to learn and improve as an effective academic.
7. Experience in organizing and conducting field durability trials.
8. The ability to meet deadlines and complete independent work.

Desirable criteria:

9. Experience with preservative treatments of wood including wood modification systems.
10. Experience working with advanced fungal isolation and identification techniques.
11. Experience with analytical methods for examining wood chemistry including GC, HPLC, or FTIR methodologies.
12. Knowledge of methods for assessing the physical and mechanical properties of timber.