

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Position	Postdoctoral Research Associate
Level/Classification	ACLEA
Reports to	Associate Professor
Unit	School of Agricultural Sciences
Directorate	College of Environmental & Life Sciences
Positions Supervised	Nil

Position Purpose

This position supports a GRDC-funded project, "Cold plasma treatment of wheat and canola for enhanced plant growth, vigour, and yield." The Research Associate will contribute to field trials across Australia, investigating the effects of cold plasma treatments on wheat and canola growth, yield, and disease tolerance.

Under the guidance of the Project Leader, the appointee will conduct research activities with increasing independence, contributing to data collection, analysis, and publication. The role also includes limited administrative and service responsibilities related to the research project. Opportunities for co-supervision of HDR students may arise during the course of the project.

About Murdoch University

Murdoch University is a young and dynamic university with a foundational commitment to the environment, social justice and inclusion, and making education accessible to more people. Founded as Western Australia's second university in 1974, today, Murdoch has more than 21,000 students and 1,700 staff across campuses in Perth, Singapore and Dubai. With more than 90,000 Alumni, Murdoch graduates can be found all over the world, making a positive difference.

Our Strategy – Ngala Kwop Bididi. Building a brighter future, together – guides the University's direction and reaffirms our shared purpose to change lives and society for the better through accessible education and research.

The Strategy is focused on three key themes:

- Sustainability: Be a leading university in education, teaching and translational research in sustainability.

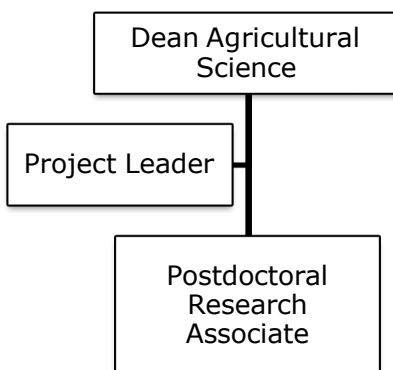
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Build a welcoming, diverse and inclusive community.
- First Nations: Become the University of first choice for First Nations peoples.

Murdoch is also committed to building engagement with our local community, State, nation, and global society with a track-record in creating strong partnerships with business, government and industry.

About the Work Area

The project is part of the cold plasma research team, which leads cold plasma-related research at Murdoch University. Research projects are supported by GRDC, Hort Innovation and the Future Food Systems CRC, and most involve postgraduate students. The Postdoctoral Research associate/fellow will be part of the larger Plant Pathology Group.

Reporting Relationships



Key Responsibilities/Duties

1. Conduct research as part of the GRDC-funded project UMU2503-004RTX, assisting with the design and implementation of field trials to assess the impact of cold plasma and plasma-activated water treatments on grain and oilseed crops.
2. Contribute to research activities both independently and as part of a team, supporting the publication of findings in international scientific journals and industry reports.
3. Work collaboratively with research team members to support applications for external competitive research funding, where opportunities arise.
4. Assist in the supervision and mentoring of postgraduate and HDR students under the guidance of senior researchers.
5. Develop a research profile and professional expertise relevant to the discipline, with increasing independence as experience grows.
6. Participate in grant funding applications in collaboration with senior researchers.
7. Support research group activities, including the development and implementation of safe laboratory practices and standard operating procedures.
8. Engage in School, University, and professional activities relevant to the discipline.
9. Undertake other duties as directed by the primary supervisor,
10. Participate in the University's Academic Career Development Conversation (ACDC) process.

Selection Criteria

Essential

1. A completed PhD degree in plant science or crop and pasture science or anticipated to complete within the next six months.
2. Demonstrated experience in plant science research including design and implementation of laboratory, glasshouse and/or field trials, data analysis, result interpretation, and contribution to publications in relevant journals.
3. Demonstrated ability to work under broad direction, exercise initiative in undertaking responsibilities and work effectively as a team member.
4. Demonstrated ability to engage in high quality research as demonstrated through publication and/or conference or industry presentations.
5. Demonstrated capacity to generate research funding (either independently or as part of a research team).
6. Well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively as a member of an interdisciplinary and collegial team, including partnerships with industry.
7. Demonstrated high levels of written and oral communication skills in English.
8. Ability and commitment to co-supervise and/or mentor postgraduate students

Desirable

1. Experience in the preparation and application of cold plasma and/or plasma activated water

Work Requirements

1. Australian permanent residency or possession of a valid visa with work entitlement in Australia.
2. Valid Australian drivers licence
3. Ability to work outside normal office hours and in rural and regional areas when required.

General Obligations

While at work, an employee must:

- take reasonable care for their own health and safety and ensure that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons;
- report incidents, injuries and hazards;
- comply with any reasonable instruction that is given by Murdoch University; and
- comply with Murdoch University policies and procedures.

Guiding Principles and Values/Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

Our Values

- Authenticity
- Integrity
- Respect

- Inclusivity
- Openness

Our Principles

- Act with justice, respect and responsible care.
- Be collegiate and respectful of other points of view.
- Protect academic freedom.
- Be agile, flexible and resilient.
- Make decisions at the most appropriate level.
- Be transparent in decision-making and with information.
- Adopt common approaches to common tasks.
- Be careful stewards of our resources.

All staff will comply with the University's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and demonstrate a commitment to its Equity, Diversity and Safety principles and the general capabilities of personal effectiveness, working collaboratively and demonstrating a focus on results.

All Staff complete a Development Conversation Annually. A Commencing Development Conversation should be completed within 3 months of commencement.

We acknowledge that Murdoch University is situated on the lands of the Whadjuk and Binjareb Noongar people. We pay our respects to their enduring and dynamic culture and the leadership of Noongar elders past and present. The boodjar (country) on which Murdoch University is located has, for thousands of years, been a place of learning. We at Murdoch University are proud to continue this long tradition.