

PhD Opportunity in innate immune research in the Faculty Medicine/Mater Research

The Faculty of Medicine is a leading provider of medical education and medical research in Queensland, with the country's largest medical program. The four year graduate entry medical program offers an integrated, case-based curriculum including early clinical experiences. The School is a diverse enterprise operating over multiple sites, with Queensland Health and private health service providers as major partners. Geographically, the School extends throughout Queensland with major sites in Brisbane, the outer metropolitan areas, and a number of rural and remote area facilities throughout the rest of the state. The UQ medical degree is also delivered overseas in Brunei and the United States of America, emphasising the global nature of the School.

The Mater Research Institute-UQ

Mater Research Institute-UQ (MRI-UQ) is a world class institute committed to academic research and its translation into clinical care for the benefit of all. MRI-UQ is an alliance between Mater Research and UQ, providing strategic and operational benefits to both parties. Mater Research brings to the alliance considerable clinical collaboration opportunities and UQ brings all its expertise as a research, education and teaching institution. MRI-UQ has more than 300 research staff, post graduate students and clinical researchers. There are currently 70 students undertaking a PhD, MPhil or Honours program.

The project supervisors are Professor David Hume, an internationally-recognised expert in macrophage biology, who is relocating from Scotland during 2017 to establish a laboratory at MRI-UQ, and Dr Katharine Irvine, a senior research fellow with extensive knowledge and experience in the field of innate immunity. Their research program focuses on the role of cells of the innate system, in particular macrophages, in development, homeostasis and pathophysiology in major organ systems, and how they can be harnessed to the benefit of human and animal health. The team has strong international links, particularly with The University of Edinburgh, where Professor Hume served as Director of The Roslin Institute from 2007 to 2017.

The Role

A PhD opportunity is available for a student with an Honours/Masters degree in immunology, physiology, molecular biology or a related field to join the Macrophage research group at Mater Research. The successful candidate will be enrolled in a higher degree (PhD) by research at the University of Queensland and carry out a research project focused on the role of macrophages in physiological and pathophysiological processes. The project will commence in mid-2017 (negotiable).

The Project

Macrophages are specialised phagocytic cells that are present in all mammalian tissues, where they play critical roles in homeostasis and host defence. This project will focus on the role of macrophages in the control of development, physiology, homeostasis and repair in major organ systems including liver, muscle and the gastrointestinal tract. The project will involve the use of novel transgenic mouse and rat models. The student will join the Macrophage laboratory at MRI-UQ, based at the Translational Research Institute (TRI), Woolloongabba, Brisbane. The project may include opportunities for exchange visits with colleagues at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh.

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The Person

Applicants must comply with the relevant entry requirements:

- a) Applicants should possess a Bachelor with honours (H1 or H2A) or a Masters Degree in a related field (e.g. immunology, physiology, biochemistry, or molecular biology) and have a strong motivation to pursue a PhD degree.
- b) Applicants must be eligible to apply for a competitive living allowance scholarship (e.g. UQGSS or equivalent <https://scholarships.uq.edu.au/scholarship/uq-graduate-school-scholarship-uqgss>) to support full-time study.
- c) Applicants must have the ability to develop technical laboratory skills including in vitro and in vivo techniques, and skills in research methodology, data analysis, and scientific writing.
- d) Applicants must have excellent writing abilities, and work effectively within a multidisciplinary and international research team.
- e) Applicants must be able to enrol full-time in the PhD program.

Remuneration

\$26,682 per annum (3 years with the possibility of 6 months extension).

The successful candidate will be expected to apply for competitive scholarships for which they are eligible, and, upon obtaining a scholarship (APA or equivalent), for the Mater Research top-up scholarship schemes worth an additional \$5,000 per annum.

Scholarships are tax exempt for Australian citizens and residents. University fees may apply to overseas candidates.

Applicants must supply a cover letter explaining your interest in and suitability to undertake research in this area, CV, and copies of Academic Transcripts. The closing date for applications is 30 April 2017.

Contact

Further information can be obtained by emailing Professor Hume (david.hume@roslin.ed.ac.uk) or Dr Irvine (Katharine.irvine@uq.edu.au).

Visit our UQ Graduate School website for full terms and conditions at <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school>

