# Position Details

## Research Projects- CSOF4

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| The following information is for applicants | |
| Advertised Job Title | Virologist, International Program |
| Job Reference | 82249 |
| Tenure | Specified term ending 30 June, 2023 (Full-time) |
| Salary Range | AU$87k - AU$98k per annum, plus up to 15.4% superannuation |
| Location(s) | Geelong – Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness, Victoria |
| Relocation Assistance | Will be provided to the successful candidate if required |
| Applications are open to | Australian Citizens Only |
| Position reports to the | Project Manager – International Program |
| Client Focus – Internal | 60% |
| Client Focus – External | 40% |
| Number of Direct Reports | 0 |
| Enquire about this job | Gemma Clark via email: [Gemma.Clark@csiro.au](mailto:Gemma.Clark@csiro.au) or phone 03 5227 5607 |
| How to apply | Apply online at <https://jobs.csiro.au/>  Internal applicants please apply via **Jobs Central**  If you experience difficulties when applying, please email [careers.online@csiro.au](mailto:careers.online@csiro.au) or call 1300 984 220. |

**Acknowledgement of Country**

CSIRO acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, sea and waters, of the areas that we live and work on across Australia. We acknowledge their continuing connection to their culture and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. View our [vision towards reconciliation](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/Indigenous-engagement/Reconciliation-Action-Plan).

### Role Overview

The Virologist, International Program is a part of the Diagnosis Surveillance and Response (DSR) Program at the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP). The role involves performing classical virology and diagnostic laboratory capacity building work such as virus isolation, antigen and reagent production, general sample processing and other associated laboratory housekeeping activities. The position requires work in high biocontainment (BSL3) laboratories and contributes to the delivery of outputs across a range of quality assured laboratory diagnostic services.

The role also includes working in and providing diagnostic training to overseas laboratories, either in person or virtually, as required to meet the project objectives of ACDP’s International Program, particularly in Indonesia. Overseas work will only be undertaken once the required competency standards are met and may involve multiple trips of 1-2 weeks duration (potentially up to 4 weeks), in countries primarily in the Asia-Pacific region.

The DSR program provides diagnostics and research capability required to investigate and respond to newly emerging diseases affecting livestock and other animals. The ACDP International Program, partners with multiple organisations including government, non-government and specialised agencies across the Asia-Pacific. Our aim is to strengthen laboratory capacity, improve quality of laboratory diagnostic services, and laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. The work undertaken is fundamental for the improvement of capability and capacity in the region for prevention, control and eradication of high-impact emerging and/or transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases that pose a significant threat to animal and public health. The program provides diagnostic expertise and training to animal health laboratories in the Indo-Pacific region, enhancing the region’s capacity for disease diagnosis and emergency outbreak response and building ongoing technical partnerships, all within a framework of Australian standards of biosafety and biosecurity.

### Duties and Key Result Areas

* Work within BSL3 and possibly BSL4 laboratories to perform virology testing under NATA/ISO 17025 accreditation for routine and emergency disease investigation, to support ACDP’s International Program and Reference Laboratory activities. After a period of training, contribute to virological characterisation work for the Virology team.
* Support delivery of the ACDP International Program’s delivery of laboratory capacity building projects in the Asia-Pacific region. This will include providing diagnostic training to overseas laboratories, hosting visiting scientists and collaborators from overseas institutions to develop and provide structured training in diagnostic virology standards and protocols.
* As part of Reference Laboratory activities, characterise virus isolates submitted to ACDP using classical methods and contribute virology capability for associated infection trials.
* Produce reagents under the ACDP quality system and ethical requirements to meet Reference Laboratory needs, international requests and the needs of the ACDP International Program.
* Contribute to Laboratory Quality Assurance requirements, including reporting tests and maintaining up-to-date and accurate test records.
* Contribute to the effective functioning of the International Program to meet specific project objectives, and to other diagnostic teams in the DSR program, to meet Annual Performance Goals and other objectives as advised by line management.
* Contribute to the planning and execution of virology projects as appropriate.
* Contribute to the interpretation and communication of research and technical results including drafting presentations or detailed written reports for clients and the scientific research community.
* Maintain confidentiality when accessing personal and commercially sensitive information.
* Communicate openly, effectively and respectfully with all staff, clients and suppliers in the interests of good business practice, collaboration and enhancement of CSIRO’s reputation.
* Work collaboratively as part of a multi-disciplinary, regionally dispersed research team to carry out tasks in support of CSIRO’s scientific objectives.
* Adhere to the spirit and practice of CSIRO’s Values, Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment procedures and policy, Diversity initiatives and Making Safety Personal goals.
* Other duties as directed.

## **Selection Criteria**

#### Essential

*Under CSIRO policy only those who meet all essential criteria can be appointed.*

1. Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree or equivalent relevant experience in Biological Sciences or a related discipline.
2. High level experience in conducting and coordinating laboratory-based viral diagnostic tests with ability to train others at both the ACDP and overseas laboratories.
3. Previous laboratory virology experience in particular working with infectious agents.
4. Demonstrated ability to support projects, including independently planning, implementing and completing the required project activities and objectives to clients’ expectations.
5. Demonstrated ability to work both independently and co-operatively as a member of a larger project team and to form and maintain effective and respectful relationships with a range of colleagues and collaborators.
6. High level interpersonal and written and verbal communication skills including the ability to document results and communicate effectively with colleagues and clients from various cultural backgrounds in order to meet project goals and timelines.
7. Willingness and ability to travel overseas for periods of between 1 and 4 weeks to deliver project work and to provide structured training for overseas collaborators.

## **Desirable**

1. Postgraduate degree in virology or a related discipline.
2. Experience in producing virological or serological test reagents under a quality system and, where required, adhering to relevant animal ethics requirements.
3. Experience in egg or cell culture techniques for virus isolation/subculture, and serological testing.
4. Prior experience working at physical containment level 3 laboratories or higher.
5. Previous experience working overseas, particularly in developing countries.

## **Required Competencies**

* **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Cooperates with others to achieve organisational objectives and may share team resources in order to do this. Collaborates with other teams as well as industry colleagues.
* **Influence and Communication:** Uses knowledge of other party's priorities and adapts presentations or discussions to appeal to the interests and level of the audience. Anticipates and prepares for others reactions.
* **Resource Management/Leadership:** Allocates activities, directs tasks and manages resources to meet objectives. Provides coaching and on the job training, recognises and supports staff achievements and fosters open communication in the team.
* **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Investigates underlying issues of complex and ill-defined problems and develops appropriate response by adapting/creating and testing alternative solutions.
* **Independence:** Recognise and makes immediate changes to improve performance (faster, better, lower cost, more efficiently, better quality, improved client satisfaction).
* **Adaptability:**Copes with ambiguity or situations that lack clarity. Adapts readily to changing circumstances and new responsibilities (which may include activities outside own preferences) in the interests of achieving team objectives. Recognises the need for and undertakes personal development as a result of changes.

Special Requirements

**Security Assessment and Microbiological Security Requirements for Personnel Working on the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) Site:**

**ACDP Special Conditions that staff must comply with:**

1. Certain positions including those working in the ACDP microbiological secure area will require security clearance at a level appropriate to duties of the position. Confirmation of the appointment is subject to obtaining that clearance.

2. It is essential that all work on exotic or emerging diseases carried out at ACDP is conducted in a safe manner to prevent the escape of the disease agents used, and to this end, all activities and personnel will be subject to appropriate microbiological security measures. Consequently, while working at ACDP, you may not reside on a property on which are kept any of the following animals: sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, horses, asses, mules and camelids, any other cloven-hoofed animal, fowls, turkeys, geese, domestic ducks, caged birds, emus or ostriches. Personnel working with diseases of aquatic animals may not keep aquarium fish at their place of residence and at times specific species may be excluded depending on the nature of the work conducted.

3. In addition, for a period of seven days after working in the microbiologically secure area of ACDP, personnel may not have close contact with any of the above animals, amphibians or birds or the actual places where these animals are held, or visit any aquatic animal farm or aquatic animal hatchery.

4. Working in the barrier maintained Small Animal Facility or the Werribee Animal Health Farm requires avoidance of additional animals such as mice, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets and poultry of a minimum of 3 days prior to arrival.

5. Certain positions will require medical assessment and vaccinations against various agents such as influenza, rabies, hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis or other agents as specified if required for the role performed.

6. Positions working at PC4 will also require a pre-employment psychological assessment.

7. Given ACDP’s role in the International Regional Program, there may be a requirement for some personnel to travel internationally and if required for this work, suitable staff should be able to obtain a valid passport and obtain applicable vaccinations.

8. Should an emergency response situation arise, ACDP may be required to implement the Emergency Animal Disease Response Plan and personnel may need to contribute to response requirements, including after-hours work.

9. Personnel must abide by Occupational Health, Safety and Environment regulations. Safety signs and directives issued by CSIRO personnel must be complied with at all times.

10. Access restrictions apply to the Werribee Animal Health Facility (WAHF) site that is associated with, but remote from, the ACDP site.

**The successful candidate will be required to:**

1. Obtain and provide evidence of a National Police Clearance or equivalent. Please note that individuals with criminal records are not automatically deemed ineligible. Each application will be considered on its merits.

2. Undertake a National Health Security Check (to be arranged post-commencement).

3. Obtain and maintain a security clearance at the Negative Vetting Level 1 (to be arranged post-commencement).

4. Travel overseas for periods of between 1 and 4 weeks.

## **About CSIRO**

We solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. Visit [CSIRO Online](http://www.csiro.au/) and [Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/acdp) for more information.

CSIRO is a values-based organisation.  In your application and at interview you will need to demonstrate behaviours aligned to our values of:

* People First
* Further Together
* Making it Real
* Trusted