# Position Details

## Research Projects- CSOF3

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| The following information is for applicants | |
| Advertised Job Title | Research Projects Officer Plant Metabolic Engineering |
| Job Reference | 94997 |
| Tenure | Specified Term of 15 months  Full-time |
| Salary Range | AU$68,148-$86,733 per annum (pro-rata for part-time)  plus up to 15.4% superannuation |
| Location(s) | Black Mountain, ACT |
| Relocation Assistance | Will be provided to the successful candidate if required |
| Applications are open to | * Australian/New Zealand Citizens and Australian Permanent Residents * Australian Temporary Residents, with an existing valid visa and unrestricted work rights for the duration of the 15-month term |
| Position reports to the | Team Leader Molecular Farming |
| Client Focus – Internal | 100% |
| Client Focus – External | 0% |
| Number of Direct Reports | 0 |
| Enquire about this job | Contact Thomas Vanhercke via email at Thomas.Vanhercke@csiro.au or phone +61 0481137997 |
| 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).

**Child Safety**

CSIRO is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our activities and programs. View our [Child Safe Policy](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/policies/child-safe-policy).

### Role Overview

The role of Research Projects staff in CSIRO is to collaborate in scientific and technological activities with other research staff usually by assisting with detailed planning, undertaking or assisting with experimental, observational or technology development work, and in carrying out the more practical aspects of the work.

The CSIRO Synthetic Traits group is world-leading in translating cutting-edge plant biotechnology towards real impact for Australian agriculture. The group’s extensive track record include the development of commercial high-oleic safflower and omega-3 canola together in close collaboration with key industry partners (<https://www.csiro.au/en/research/plants/crops/oil-crops/sho-safflower>; <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/production/biotechnology/omega-3-canola>).

This position is an exciting opportunity to be at the forefront of one of CSIRO’s new strategic growth areas (Molecular Farming) and create with us the next generation of high-value engineered crops.

As part of the Molecular Farming team, you will focus on exploring different genetic engineering strategies to produce high-value therapeutic cannabinoid molecules in an alternative host plant. Activities will involve conducting *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaf infiltration assays using various genetic constructs in the presence of different substrates, followed by extraction of cannabinoid and/or lipid products, sample preparation and LC-MS analysis.

### Duties and Key Result Areas

* Conducting transient leaf expression assays in *Nicotiana benthamiana*.
* Maintaining a supply of *Nicotiana benthamiana* in growth cabinets for transient leaf expression experiments.
* Harvesting leaf samples and extraction of cannabinoid/lipid metabolites for LC-MS analysis.
* Routine LC-MS analysis of Cannabinoid and lipid metabolites following established protocols.
* Assisting in timely planning of experiments to meet project demands, actively trouble-shooting to resolve identified problems, participating in project meetings, recording data in electronic lab notebook form, and working closely in a multidisciplinary team consisting of members across different divisions within CSIRO
* 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.
* Adhere to the spirit and practice of CSIRO’s Values, Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment procedures and policy and diversity initiatives.
* Other duties as directed.

## **Selection Criteria**

#### Essential

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

1. Relevant bachelor’s degree or equivalent relevant work experience in analytical chemistry and/or plant molecular biology.
2. Experience in analytical methods such as mass spectrometry.
3. Familiar in working with plants, including growing, sampling and processing.
4. Abilities in data collation, analysis and provision of results for inclusion in reports and papers

## **Desirable**

1. Great if you have worked on lipids and/or secondary metabolites before.
2. Experience in tissue culture and/or conducting leaf infiltration assays is a bonus.
3. And if you have experience in LC-MS, we really want to hear from you.

## **Required Competencies**

* **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Proactively seeks and considers the ideas and opinions of others from within and outside the team to help form decisions, plans or actions.
* **Influence and Communication:** Puts forward ideas by presenting factual information supported by data, definitions, examples, illustrations or other aids, which will assist in conveying meaning.
* **Resource Management/Leadership:** Provides instruction and assists other staff to complete allocated tasks and activities.
* **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Identifies and considers the implications of a range of available alternatives in order to select the most appropriate response to problems of a familiar or recurring nature.
* **Independence:** Recognise and makes immediate changes to improve performance (faster, better, lower cost, more efficiently, better quality, improved client satisfaction).
* **Adaptability:**Willingness to change ideas or perceptions based on new information, contrary evidence or other people's points of view. Prepared to try out different approaches.

Special Requirements

Appointment to this role is subject to provision of a pre-employment background check and may be subject to other security/medical/character clearance requirements.

Include if relevant:

## **About CSIRO**

We solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. Visit [CSIRO Online](http://www.csiro.au/) and <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/plants/crops/Oil-crops> 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