# Position Details

## Research Projects- CSOF3

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| The following information is for applicants |
| Advertised Job Title | Research Projects Officer in Plant Health Molecular Diagnostics |
| Job Reference | 91888 |
| Tenure | Specified Term of 3 years Full-time |
| Salary Range | AU$68,148 - AU$86,733 per annum (pro-rata for part-time)plus up to 15.4% superannuation |
| Location(s) | CSIRO Black Mountain, Canberra |
| 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 a valid work visa for the duration of the term
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| Position reports to the | Research Scientist and Team Leader Plant Health Molecular Diagnostics |
| Client Focus – Internal | 70% |
| Client Focus – External | 30% |
| Number of Direct Reports | 0 |
| Enquire about this job | Contact Gavin Hunter via email at gavin.hunter@csiro.au or phone +61 2 6218 3658 |
| 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 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.

As part of the Plant Health Molecular Diagnostic team, this role will contribute to developing and undertaking experimentation to develop and optimise innovative molecular diagnostic tools and platforms to detect endemic and exotic pests and pathogens affecting a range of Australian crops. This will be a hands-on role suitable for a proactive, inquisitive biologist who enjoys spending time in a laboratory and glasshouse setting undertaking experimentation to generate high quality results that are used in downstream analyses.

### Duties and Key Result Areas

* Under limited supervision, undertake a range of molecular based experiments in a laboratory employing various techniques including specimen homogenisation, DNA and RNA extraction, PCR amplification, DNA sequencing, real-time PCR, assay design, troubleshooting and optimisation.
* Preparation of growth media, chemical reagents, and inoculum of plant. pathogenic fungi/bacteria for glasshouse use in inoculation trials.
* Maintenance of fungal or bacterial cultures..
* Record experimental results in a precise, structured manner within hardcopy and digital notebooks while also entering research data into research databases for downstream analyses.
* Conduct literature reviews, investigations and inspections in the field or laboratory including associated analysis possibly involving statistical or graphics software.
* Work with discretion to decide on the timing of operations within the work team’s plan and plan ahead to meet experimental and/or project demands.
* Independently test possible solutions to resolve identified experimental problems.
* May have responsibility for maintaining laboratory or fieldwork consumables and scheduling and instructing staff in the use of shared equipment.
* Respond courteously and efficiently to client requests, maintaining clear communication regarding mutual expectations and monitoring client satisfaction.
* 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 Zero Harm goals.
* 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 plant pathology, microbiology, mycology, bacteriology, virology, biological sciences.
2. Experience in laboratory-based experimentation using standard molecular biology techniques.
3. Experience in handling and maintaining microbial (fungal or bacterial) cultures.
4. Proven experience in undertaking and maintaining glasshouse plant experiments.
5. Previous experience in propagating and maintaining plants.
6. Demonstrated understanding of experimental procedures and effective record keeping.
7. The ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary team under the general direction from Research Scientists.

## **Desirable**

1. Previous experience working with fungal or bacterial plant pathogens.
2. Previous experience in the analysis of DNA sequence data.
3. Demonstrated ability with coding language such as R or Python.

## **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 may be subject to conditions including provision of a national police check as well as other security/medical/character clearance requirements.

* If the successful candidate is not an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident, they may be required to undergo additional security clearances, which may include medical examinations and an international standardised test of English language proficiency (i.e. IELTS test- https://ielts.com.au/)*.*

## **About CSIRO**

We solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. Visit [CSIRO Online](http://www.csiro.au/) and [Health and Biosecurity](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/people/business-units/health-and-biosecurity) 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