



Job Description

Post:	Research Associate (Ecotoxicology and Monitoring) ID 73548
Department:	UCL Australia
Salary:	\$64,978 to \$79,917 pa, plus 17% superannuation
Term:	(Initial funding is for 24 months)
Grade:	Grade 7
Reporting to:	Dr Craig Styan, Senior Lecturer, UCL School of Energy and Resources, Australia
Role:	Research
Responsible for:	Undertaking research developing new ecotoxicology assay methods and other aspects of marine impact and pollution monitoring
Location:	UCL Australia, Adelaide. There may be requirements for field work away from Adelaide and opportunities for some overseas work (Sweden).

(A) Main duties and responsibilities

The Research Associate will be responsible for the development and testing of new methods for Whole Effluent Toxicity testing being developed by UCL Australia. There may also be opportunities to work with Dr Styan on other aspects of environmental impact monitoring of offshore and coastal development.

Main purpose of the job:

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing is used widely to assess the potential toxicity of discharges or contaminants released as part of offshore exploration and development activities. Particularly where mixtures of contaminants need to be evaluated, WET testing allows a direct measure of the realised net toxicity on marine or aquatic organisms, accounting for interactions where complex cocktails of chemicals are released. There are, however, a number of drawbacks with current WET testing methods. This project will develop and optimise a new, simple WET testing methodology based on reproductive endpoints, which will be quicker, potentially be more precise and cost less than current tests. Moreover, the new methods should apply across a wide range of marine and aquatic organisms and be easily established in (and outside of) current WET testing laboratories.

The role of the Research Associate will be to lead this research, designing and conducting of experiments to validate and develop new assay methods. They will take the lead in the writing of papers based on this work and in applying for further funding. Part of the project will involve collaborative work with colleagues based in Sweden and so may require visiting Tjärnö Marine Laboratory.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Plan, carry out and analyse experiments to develop new Whole Effluent Toxicity assay methods, based on gamete motility endpoints.
2. Lead the writing of co-authored papers and contract research reports.
3. Apply for additional grant and contract research funding to develop the project.
4. Assist with other aspects of research into monitoring of impacts of offshore and coastal

developments.

5. Where appropriate and on a limited basis, contribute to teaching in selected units of the MSc in Energy and Resources Management at UCL Australia

This project may be supported by a number of parallel projects of PhD and MSc students for which the successful applicant will be expected to provide support and co-supervision.

Some parts of this project may also involve use of confidential data provided to UCL Australia by industry partners, for which the Research Associate may need to sign a confidentiality agreement. Wherever possible, the right to publish findings based on this data will be negotiated with industry partners, but in some cases this may not be guaranteed.

As the project proceeds, the job description may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the investigators.

(B) Person Specification

Knowledge

Essential: Broad knowledge of marine ecology and environmental management
Demonstrated understanding of ecotoxicology and impact/pollution monitoring.
Experience using statistical packages such as PERMANOVA, SPSS, Systat etc.
Demonstrated ability to publish high impact peer reviewed papers

Desirable: Experience with larval biology and microscopy
Experience writing contract research reports
Ability to successfully obtain external research funding

Qualifications

Essential: A PhD degree in marine ecology, environmental science or other relevant scientific field.

Skills

Essential: Ability to conduct high quality research to challenging deadlines.
Ability to think creatively and to use his or her own initiative.
Ability to communicate with project partners and other stakeholders in government, industry and professional bodies.
Excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.

Desirable: Experience with supervising student research projects
Snorkelling/diving qualifications or other marine field experience

Personal qualities

Essential: Commitment to high quality academic research
Commitment to UCL's policy for equal opportunities

(C) Application procedure

To apply please submit:

- a personal covering letter detailing why you feel you are the best person for our job and demonstrating how you meet the criteria for the position;
- a brief CV which summaries your academic record; and an appendix to this CV which provides a detailed background of your publishing record and other academic achievements;

- The names, telephone numbers and email addresses of three referees and their relationship to you.

You must provide sufficient information in your application to enable the selection panel to make an informed assessment of your suitability for this role at short-listing.

Enquiries, in the first instance, should be submitted by email to Dr Craig Styan, c.styan@ucl.ac.uk.

Applications should be submitted by email to Ms Michaela Mocikova, m.mocikova@ucl.ac.uk.

Closing date for applications: 04 November 2013 midnight (Adelaide; GMT + 8 hrs)