



CSIRO Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

Positions Details - 2009/393 - Postdoctoral Fellow - Crop Nutrition

Job Profile

Reference Number: 2009/393
 Position Title: *Postdoctoral Fellow - Crop Nutrition*
 Division: *CSIRO Plant Industry*
 Location: *Floreat Park, WA*
 Classification: *CSOF4*
 Salary Range: *\$69K - \$76K plus Superannuation*
 Tenure: *3 year term*
 Applicants: *International Applicants Welcome*
 Relocation Assistance: *May be offered to the successful applicant.*
 Applications Close: *20 Jul 2009*
 Job Category: *Scientific Research*

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An opportunity exists within CSIRO Plant Industry's Molecular and Physiological Wheat Breeding Group for an early career scientist to undertake novel and cutting edge research. This research forms part of a project aimed at the identification of wheat germplasm with enhanced N uptake, grain yield and grain protein content. Field trials varying genotype and N will be sown in Eastern and Western Australia. The focus of the research will be on the identification of wheat germplasm with enhanced N uptake capacity, grain yield and grain protein content, and will explore the mechanism of increased N capture.

The key capabilities we are seeking in the successful candidate include:

- The ability to work in the field of crop physiology and agronomy, specifically at the soil-root interface;
- A good knowledge of microbiological transformations of N in soil and N uptake by plants;
- Keen interest in taking research outcomes through to application;
- The capacity to present research findings both orally and in writing to a variety of audiences.

You should be comfortable doing scientific research both in the field as well as in laboratory environments. A strong commitment to team work will be highly regarded.

The Molecular and Physiological Wheat Breeding Group is a research unit of CSIRO Plant Industry. The Group is made up of a large team of research scientists and technicians located in Canberra, Brisbane and Perth. Our aim is to identify or develop germplasm carrying specific traits and trait combinations for improved performance in a range of Australian wheat-growing

environments. We aim to make germplasm available in a form readily useable by commercial breeding programs as parents or in direct evaluation for commercial release.

The successful appointee must have completed the requirements for a PhD. Owing to terms of the fellowship, candidates must not have more than 3 years relevant Post-Doctoral Experience.

CSIRO is strongly committed to Diversity and offers [Flexible Working Arrangements](#) and enhanced leave entitlements.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply for all CSIRO positions.

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Position Description

The key duties of this position will be to:

- Contribute to team effort on studies of early growth vigour in cereals as part of a strategy to improve N uptake;
- Develop effective screening protocols to improve N uptake in wheat;
- Design and conduct field-based studies to identify genotypes with improved N uptake;
- Present informative and high quality talks on improved N uptake in cereals;
- Publish findings in research journals;
- Conduct work in such a manner as to help build CSIRO's research reputation for integrated and multi-disciplinary science related to improved N uptake in cereals;
- Conduct work in such a manner as to contribute to the effective functioning of the research team and so help deliver upon CSIRO's organisational objectives.

Key capabilities:

- Capable of working in the field of crop physiology and agronomy;
- Ability to work at the soil-root interface;
- Knowledge of microbiological transformations of N in soil and N uptake by plants;
- Interest in taking research outcomes through to application;
- Ability to work in field, glasshouse and laboratory environments;
- Capable of communicating findings orally to a variety of audiences;
- Capacity to write research papers;
- Strong commitment to team work;
- Active support of CSIRO's code of conduct and OHS&E.

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Selection Criteria

Applicants **must** address the selection criteria. **Applicants who do not address the selection criteria will not be considered.** To assist you in preparing your application please read the information available at ["Guidelines for Applicants"](#)

Essential:

1. PhD in agronomy, crop physiology or plant breeding.
2. A sound understanding of the application of physiology to plant improvement.
3. Demonstrated skills in designing and conducting field and/or controlled environment experiments.
4. Demonstrated conceptual and practical knowledge plus experience in nutrient research in soil-plant systems.
5. Excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication, negotiation and representational skills.
6. Ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary research team.
7. Current driver's licence.

Desirable:

1. Knowledge of genetics/plant breeding.
2. Demonstrated practical experience in N research in soil-plant systems either under laboratory or field environments.
3. Experience with techniques used to study root function.

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More Information

Applications

Before you apply ensure that your documents are in Text, MS Word or PDF. Ensure your file is not larger than 1MB in PDF format, or 2MB for all other formats. Your Documents will be converted into PDF format. To view these documents once converted you will need to download Adobe Reader [Download Adobe Reader](#)

For further information about CSIRO please visit www.csiro.au.

CSIRO prefers applications be lodged online via this careers site.

You are required to include two documents (1) "A document Addressing the Selection Criteria" and (2) a "Resume or CV" including the names of at least two professional referees.

Note: Applications that do not address the selection criteria will not be considered.

If you experience difficulties applying online call 1300 301 509 and someone will be able to assist you. Outside business hours please email: csiro-careers@csiro.au.

If you are unable to lodge your application online you can fax your application (quoting reference number 2009/393) to +61 2 6276 6641 or alternatively post to:

CSIRO Careers Online
PO Box 225
DICKSON ACT 2602

Contact: If after reading the selection documentation you require further information please contact Dr Steve Milroy via email Steve.Milroy@csiro.au or phone +61 8 9333 6680

Please do not email your application directly to Dr Milroy. Applications received via this method will not be considered. You must use the 'Apply Now' link, or an alternative method of submission as outlined above.

If you would like more information on CSIRO Plant Industry and the Molecular and Physiological Wheat Breeding Group, please follow the links at www.pi.csiro.au

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