

UWS POSITION STATEMENT

Position Title: Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Nutrient Cycling / Biogeochemistry

Reference No: 247/09

School/Office: Centre for Plant and Food Science

College/Division: College of Health and Science

CONTEXT:

The Centre for Plant and Food Science at the University of Western Sydney conducts fundamental and applied research in a range of areas that include climate change biology, plant-environment interactions, sustainable plant production, applied entomology, soil microbiology and ecological systems.

The School of Natural Sciences at the University of Western Sydney is one of six schools within the College of Health and Science. The School is educating tomorrow's graduates in an environment that is contemporary, challenging, and adapted to a rapidly evolving world. The School's programs embrace a range of innovative approaches to teaching and are designed to equip graduates with a passion for life long learning. The School's teaching and research programs are intrinsically interdisciplinary. The School has teaching and research specialisations in biological and chemical sciences, medical science, forensic science, animal science, food nutrition and biotechnology, environmental health, management and science, and agriculture and horticulture.

PURPOSE / MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

The successful applicant will be expected to conduct independent research relevant to nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry, attract government and/or industry funding for the Centre, and supervise postgraduate student projects in their area of expertise. The successful applicant will also be expected to undertake teaching in the School of Natural Sciences in their area of expertise.

The appointment will be for three years in the first instance, but will be converted to a continuing position subject to evidence of establishing a successful research program and demonstration of innovative and effective contributions to learning and teaching.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

The position reports to the Director, Centre for Plant and Food Science. The successful applicant will be subject to the University's Annual Performance, Planning and Review (APPR) process.

SCOPE:

Academics are expected to make contributions to the research effort of the Centre for Plant and Food Science including the supervision of honours and postgraduate research students and the teaching effort of the School of Natural Sciences. A Level B academic will be expected to carry out research activities in areas relevant to their discipline, a Level C academic is expected to play a major role in research.

In addition, all academics are expected to contribute to the strategic direction of the Centre.

KEY FUNCTIONS / RESPONSIBILITIES – Lecturer:

The broad role of an academic level B includes:

- carrying out independent and/or team research within the field of nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry and to carry out activities to develop their research expertise relevant to the particular field of research.
- making contributions to the teaching effort of the School and to carry out activities to maintain and develop their scholarly and professional activities relevant to teaching and learning.

The specific duties of an academic level B in include:

- the conduct of research either as a member of a team or independently, and the production of conference and seminar papers and publications from that research
- supervision of research-support employees involved in the employee's research
- guidance in the research effort of junior employees or research only employees in nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry
- preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies
- involvement in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry
- appropriate administrative functions
- contribution to undergraduate teaching
- supervision of major honours or postgraduate research projects in the field of nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry
- attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the organisational unit to which the research is connected and/or departmental and/or College meetings and/or membership of a limited number of committees.

KEY FUNCTIONS / RESPONSIBILITIES – Senior Lecturer:

The broad role of an academic level C includes:

- making independent or original contributions to the research effort in nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry and to the organisational unit or interdisciplinary area of which they are a part. An employee at this level is expected to play a major role in research including the exercise of some leadership in research.
- making significant contributions to the teaching effort of the School. An academic at this level is also expected to play a major role in scholarship, research and/or professional activities in relation to teaching and learning.

The specific duties of an academic level C include:

- the conduct of research and the production of conference and seminar papers and publications from that research
- supervision of research-support and administrative employees involved in the employee's research
- supervision where appropriate of the research of less senior research only employees in nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry
- involvement, where appropriate, in the promotion of research links with outside bodies
- preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies;
- significant role in research projects including, where appropriate, leadership of research teams or management of projects
- responsibility for the oversight of financial management of grants for their research projects
- involvement in professional activities, including, unit to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry
- occasional contributions to the teaching program within the field of nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry
- supervision of major honours or postgraduate research projects within the field of nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry
- various research-related administrative functions
- attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the organisational unit to which the research is connected and/or departmental and/or College meetings and a major role in planning and committee work.

SELECTION CRITERIA – Lecturer:

An academic level B employee will:

- have completed a relevant doctoral qualification or have equivalent qualifications or research experience in nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry;
- be expected to have had post doctoral research experience;
- demonstrate experience in writing successful research grant proposals as part of a team;
- demonstrate a strong track record of recent publications in high impact journals;
- demonstrate experience in contributing to supervision of undergraduate honours and/or higher degree research students;
- demonstrate excellent oral and written communication skills, including interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively in a team;
- demonstrate a broad interest in and understanding of the institutional needs of a university research centre and willingness to contribute actively to this ongoing process;
- demonstrate experience in quality teaching at tertiary level;
- demonstrate understanding of the principles of equal opportunity, equity and occupational health and safety and the willingness and capacity to implement equal opportunity, equity and occupational health and safety plans and programs.

SELECTION CRITERIA – Senior Lecturer:

An academic level C employee will:

- have relevant doctoral qualification or equivalent accreditation and standing together with subsequent research experience in nutrient cycling / biogeochemistry;
- demonstrate experience in writing successful research grant proposals as an individual;
- demonstrate a strong track record of recent publications with a high citation index in high impact journals;
- demonstrate experience and success in supervision of higher degree research students to completion;
- demonstrate excellent oral and written communication skills, including interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively in a team;
- demonstrate a broad interest in and understanding of the institutional needs of a university research centre and willingness to contribute actively to this ongoing process;

- demonstrate experience in quality teaching at tertiary level, including the ability to facilitate learning in small and large groups, and to utilise forms of blended learning;
- demonstrate understanding of the principles of equal opportunity, equity and occupational health and safety and the willingness and capacity to implement equal opportunity, equity and occupational health and safety plans and programs.