

**Faculty of Science and Information Technology**

**Research Assistant (2 fixed-term positions)**

**School of Environmental and Life Sciences**

**Position No. 996**

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**General Information**

An exciting opportunity exists within the Reproductive Science Group for you to investigate the effects of a range of novel molecules on oocyte development in vitro and fertility in vivo or participate in a program of work designed to assess the quality of human gametes and embryos. Duties may include ovarian, oocyte or embryo culture, in vitro fertilization, bacterial and bacteriovirus culture, recombinant protein characterization, expression and purification, immunohistochemistry, fluorescent microscopy, proteomics and data processing. This position will provide you with a thorough training in developmental and reproductive cell biology.

Positions are available on a full-time/fixed term basis for a period of 1 year and may be renewed subject to availability of funding.

**Position Description**

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>HEW / ACADEMIC LEVEL:</b>	HEW 5
<b>FACULTY/DIVISION:</b>	Science and Information Technology
<b>SCHOOL/UNIT:</b>	Environmental and Life Sciences
<b>IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR:</b>	Professor John Aitken/Dr Eileen McLaughlin
<b>ROLE STATEMENT:</b>	To provide a high level of technical and research support to the Reproductive Science Group on projects related to the design of novel contraceptive agents on the assessment of human infertility
<b>ROLE DESCRIPTION:</b>	Research Assistant

**Supervision/Management/Leadership**

- Be responsible to the immediate supervisor in the provision of timely, efficient, technical and research support services

**Task Level and Typical Activities**

- Undertake cell isolation and culture activities
- Undertake recombinant protein preparation and immunoblotting
- Undertake immunohistochemistry, immunocytochemistry and confocal microscopy
- Undertake Mass spectrometry analysis and reporting
- Data entry
- Prepare reports or other documents as required by supervisor
- Undertake any other duties relevant and appropriate to this level.

**Organisational Knowledge**

- Experience in a laboratory environment
- Be familiar with, and observe the University's policy and procedures on Equity and Diversity and Occupational Health and Safety in the performance of the responsibilities of the position, and (where applicable) in the management of others.

#### Judgement, Independence and Problem Solving

- Demonstrated ability to apply standard technical skills, training and experience to solve problems.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently with a minimum of supervision

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

- Degree in a related area, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science or Bachelor of Biotechnology, or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training
- Experience in employment in a molecular and cell biology laboratory environment
- Knowledge and understanding of Occupational Health and Safety regulations and experience with applying the regulations to a laboratory situation
- Excellent organisational skills and an ability to prioritise deadlines
- Demonstrated ability to communicate well with people at all levels
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, with a minimum of supervision, as well as part of a small team
- Willingness to work flexible hours when required
- Good computing skills that include knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, electronic mail and the internet
- Understanding of equity principles

#### Desirable Criteria

- Experience in sterile technique
- Experience in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell culture
- Knowledge of virology
- Knowledge of immunohistochemistry and confocal microscopy

#### Conditions and Benefits

HEW Level 5 - \$47,051 to 54,582 per annum.

The basic contribution for superannuation will be made by the University into Unisuper Accumulation 1. Contributory superannuation with additional employer contributions is not available with this appointment.

A range of flexible salary packaging options is also available.

Further information on benefits and conditions of employment is available at the following link:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/employment/conditions.html>

#### Further Information

For additional information on the position contact Angela DiSanto on (02) 4921 2082 or [angela.disanto@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:angela.disanto@newcastle.edu.au).

#### Related Links

- [School of Environmental and Life Sciences](#)
- [ARC Centre for Excellence](#)
- [University of Newcastle Annual Report](#)

#### Closing Date

Applications close on **Sunday 20 July 2008**.

**Note:** Your application must include a statement addressing the selection criteria.

All applications must include the Application for Employment Cover Sheet ([PDF](#) or [MS Word](#)) including an email and/or fax address for each nominated referee.

Please read the important information contained via the [How to apply](#) link before submitting your application.

## Submitting Your Application

DO NOT send your application to the Faculty or Division in which the position is located.

### Internal Applicants

**Current University of Newcastle staff members MUST use [HRonline](#) to lodge their application.**

- Log into [HRonline](#)
- Click on University Job Vacancies
- Click Apply for a Vacancy and select the position you wish to apply for

### External Applicants

Please forward your application **by email** to: [employment@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:employment@newcastle.edu.au) quoting the position number and position title in the subject field.

Note: Applications and attachments must be in Microsoft Word (Version 6.0 or later); Rich Text Format, or PDF.

If you do not have access to email you may mail or fax your application.

Mailed or Delivered applications should be stapled or clipped securely at the top left corner with the Application Cover Sheet ([PDF](#) or [MS Word](#)) on top.

Do not use binders, folders or plastic sleeves as your application may need to be photocopied.

Deliver or Mail one (1) copy of your application, marked "Confidential" and indicating the Position number to:

Human Resource Services Team  
Level 1, The Chancellery  
University of Newcastle  
CALLAGHAN NSW 2308  
Australia

Alternatively, fax one (1) copy of your application to

Confidential Fax on (+61 2) 4921 5285.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring the receipt of faxed applications.

You may telephone (+61 2) 4921 5266 during business hours (AEST) to confirm receipt of your Fax transmission.

*The University of Newcastle values [equity and diversity](#).*