

## **Molecular Scientist – Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Darwin**

We are seeking a Molecular Scientist to join our plant biosecurity team in Darwin. Perform molecular assays in accordance with a quality management system

### **The Job**

The key duties of the position includes:

- Undertaking routine molecular based assays (including high-throughput sequencing) involving specimens and samples of biosecurity interest analysed under conditions of biosecurity containment and the laboratory's quality management system.
- Developing and validating molecular assays in a quality assured environment.
- Working closely with taxonomic specialists to enhance molecular diagnostic interpretations.
- Communicating and collaborating with other laboratory staff to actively resolve problems and address scientific challenges and aid other areas of the laboratory as required.
- Investigating, validating and implementing innovative technologies such as high throughput sequencing or sampling techniques such as environmental DNA (eDNA).
- Providing advice or expertise, as required, to reference/training groups or forums.
- Providing training and troubleshooting for other staff in the use of rapid test methods, such as LAMP and qPCR.
- Purchasing and registering of reagents.
- Providing input into WHS and quality assurance aspects of laboratory management.
- Managing and maintaining samples, data and databases in accordance with policy, data quality standards including the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and sample-based and electronic reference collections.

### **What we are looking for**

#### **Knowledge and experience**

The successful applicant will have:

- Experience in molecular data analysis and bioinformatics (mandatory).
- Experience using molecular techniques including nucleic acid amplification and sequencing using Sanger or Nanopore technologies (mandatory).
- Experienced in performing sequence analysis using a range of bioinformatics software to construct and interpret phylogenetic data (mandatory).
- Ability to develop and/or optimise existing protocols to allow identification of organisms for which protocols are not currently available or inadequate (mandatory).
- Experience operating under conditions of biosecurity containment (desirable).
- Experience operating in a quality assured laboratory (desirable).
- Experience in handling microorganisms under aseptic conditions (desirable).

#### **Skills and capabilities**

The successful applicant will have:

- A methodical and organised approach to conducting molecular analysis as well as being innovative.
- The ability to grasp information quickly in order to use it proactively and work practically and collaboratively with minimal supervision.
- Excellent team-building, communication and inter-personal skills.
- Demonstrated personal integrity and commitment to deliver the work through effective planning and diligent management of available resources and time
- Clear and respectful communication style while maintaining the integrity of the message.
- A demonstrated ability to build and maintain productive working relationships to achieve required or agreed operational/business outcomes.

Flexible employment arrangements are available with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**Closing date for applications: 10 March 2023**

**Apply via:** <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/jobs/apply>