



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

# Associate Professor, School of Plant Biology, Deputy Director Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 23 FEBRUARY 2015



Appointment of

# Associate Professor, School of Plant Biology Deputy Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Introduction

I welcome your interest in the School of Plant Biology Associate Professor in weed/crop science/weed control technologies. This new position will act as Deputy Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative.

The University of Western Australia (UWA) is now ranked 4th in Australia and 88th in the world by the Academic Ranking of World Universities.

Our success continues a trend that has seen us leap 36 places globally since 2008, and keeps us on target to reach our longer term goal of reaching the world top 50 by 2050. In Life and Agricultural Sciences we are ranked 1st in Australia and 26th in the world in the same ranking.

UWA is a science-focused university, and the Faculty of Science is internationally renowned for our excellence in teaching and research. UWA is rated above world standard in 38 fields of research, and 79% of these are a science field. The diverse nature of our faculty and the importance of agriculture to Australia gives unique opportunities for research and student training. As a faculty, we focus our science solutions on bringing about meaningful change for the world and humanity in six key areas, one of which is to agricultural science under the theme 'Feeding the world'.



The Faculty of Science's School of Plant Biology seeks to recruit an Associate Professor in weed/crop science/weed control technologies to be Deputy Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) and contribute to our teaching, research and extension programs.

The appointee, together with the AHRI Director, will provide scientific leadership, contribute to management of the AHRI team and contribute more widely to leadership in crop/weed science at UWA. The Deputy Director will play an increasing role in fostering excellence and future directions in AHRI activities and will directly lead research areas in weed control technologies for Australian field crop production systems. The appointee will significantly contribute to crop and weed science at UWA through research, research training and coursework teaching, and to external communication and relationships to enable continuation of the national and global leadership role of AHRI in the fight against herbicide resistance.

I invite you to consider the exciting opportunities available for this new position in a University, Faculty of Science and School with a reputation for international excellence and the vitality and excitement of innovative research in a 21st century environment.

Professor Tony O'Donnell  
Dean of Science

# The University of Western Australia

The University of Western Australia is a high-quality research-intensive university with a broad and balanced coverage of disciplines in the arts, science and major professions. It is Western Australia's oldest university, established in 1911, and currently has a student population of approximately 24,500.

The University has an international reputation for excellence and enterprise and is regarded as one of Australia's top research institutions. Its strong research culture sees it attract high levels of competitive research funding. At the same time the University places great emphasis on high quality in teaching and learning, and is committed to the development of innovative and responsive programs. It has focused on the teaching-research nexus, so that teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere of research scholarship.

The University's high quality teaching and research ensure it remains the university of preference for Western Australia's highest achieving school leavers, as well as attracting high-calibre undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the nation and overseas. The quality of the student population is high by national and international standards.

The University is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of its academic staff and has strong strategic partnerships with industry, the professions and government. It operates in collaboration with other research intensive universities in Australia and around the world. The University of Western Australia's graduates are highly competitive internationally, achieving success in higher study and in wide-ranging fields of employment. Many graduates have risen to prominence in leadership roles in industry, government, education and the professions, in Australia and internationally.

[www.uwa.edu.au](http://www.uwa.edu.au)



# Role, key responsibilities, selection criteria and conditions of employment

The School of Plant Biology seeks to recruit an Associate Professor in weed science/crop science/weed control technologies to be Deputy Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) and contribute to our teaching, research and extension programs.

AHRI is a GRDC funded national initiative that addresses herbicide resistance, weed control and crop agronomy. The appointee will work collaboratively within UWA and build links with external partners, the grains industry and grower groups. We are seeking a person with energy, vision, leadership and a commitment to excellence in research, graduate student training (PhD and MSc) and coursework teaching.

The successful candidate will be part of a succession plan for the ongoing success of AHRI beyond 2020.

## Key responsibilities

- Develop and lead an externally funded research program focussed on identifying and evaluating innovative weed control technologies applicable for sustainable broadacre crop production;
- Contribute to coursework teaching in the areas of crop and weed science;
- Recruit and supervise PhD students in innovative weed control technologies within cropping systems, and related subject areas of weed and crop science;
- Produce high quality scholarly publications in international, well-ranked scientific journals;
- Communicate AHRI's activities and knowledge to AHRI stakeholders with focus on applications of new knowledge for industry end-users;
- Develop and nurture national and international collaborative public and private sector partnerships in the areas of herbicide resistance and weed control technologies for broadacre crop production;
- Contribute to research leadership and management of the AHRI team and develop and maintain relationships with AHRI's collaborating partners, with an increasing leadership role with time;
- Foster and contribute to the AHRI communication program in outreach and training activities (meetings, workshops, symposia, e-newsletters, field days) on sustainable cropping, weed control and related areas;
- Establish good working relationships with key farming leaders in Australia and agri-industry both nationally and internationally.

## Selection Criteria

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- Relevant PhD qualifications and with the skills and willingness to focus on research on innovative weed control technologies;
- Excellence in research, including scientific journal publications, in the areas of agronomy, weed science, crop science, or related disciplines;
- Ability for successful postgraduate research student supervision and coursework teaching;
- Academic leadership skills and ability to effectively manage collaborations within a multi-disciplinary environment;
- Organisational and communication skills, including commitment to communication of crop production systems knowledge to growers/industry and the ability to interact with key relevant organisations (e.g. global and local corporations, GRDC, other RDCs, government agencies, universities, CSIRO, grower groups, etc);
- Understanding of Health & Safety risk assessments and planning as related to the workplace, including use of agri-chemicals.



# Applications

Thank you for your interest. If you wish to proceed, the following information will assist you with your application. Refer also to the selection criteria on page 4.

The position description (Job No. 313801) is available at: [external.jobs.uwa.edu.au](http://external.jobs.uwa.edu.au)

## Conditions of employment

The appointment will be tenurable and subject to annual performance reviews.

Salary range: Level D: \$133,440 - \$147,012 pa.

Other benefits:

- Employment contribution to superannuation of 17%;
- Recreation leave of 20 days pa;
- Long service leave;
- Eligibility for sabbatical leave.

In addition, airfares to Perth (if applicable) for appointee and dependants along with a relocation allowance will be provided.

## Lodging your application

**Applications must be submitted online.** Full details of the position's responsibilities and the selection criteria are outlined in the position description and applicants should clearly demonstrate they meet the selection criteria.

Applicants with teaching experience are requested to submit a teaching portfolio as part of their application.

[Click here to apply.](#)

Please also note: If you are the successful candidate for this position and you are not an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia, you will be required to obtain an entry visa to work here. The University of Western Australia will sponsor you for employment in Australia under the Employer Nomination Scheme.

## Closing date

Monday, 23 February 2015

## Enquiries and further information

For further information please contact:

Professor Tim Colmer

Head of School of Plant Biology

Tel: +61 8 6488 1993

Email: [timothy.colmer@uwa.edu.au](mailto:timothy.colmer@uwa.edu.au)

## Timeline

The University expects to short-list in early March 2015 and interviews will be conducted thereafter.

## Useful links

Faculty of Science: [www.science.uwa.edu.au](http://www.science.uwa.edu.au)

School of Plant Biology: [www.plants.uwa.edu.au](http://www.plants.uwa.edu.au)

Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative:  
[www.ahri.uwa.edu.au](http://www.ahri.uwa.edu.au)

UWA Institute of Agriculture: [www.ioa.uwa.edu.au](http://www.ioa.uwa.edu.au)

WeedSmart: [www.weedsmart.org.au](http://www.weedsmart.org.au)

# School of Plant Biology

Plant Biology is one of the nine schools in the Faculty of Science.

The School of Plant Biology conducts leading edge research on Plant Production Systems, Natural Terrestrial Systems and Marine Systems, and is the primary plant science teaching and research School at UWA.

With a budget of \$16 million, the School has 90 staff members, including many highly cited researchers, as well as 120 postgraduate students.

The Associate Professor in Plant Biology and Deputy Director AHRI position will be expected to provide leadership, enhanced research capacity, research student supervision, coursework teaching and high level communication to the Australian cropping industry. The successful applicant will work collaboratively within UWA and with external partners and industry groups. The appointee will be based in the School of Plant Biology with access to the School's infrastructure (laboratories and plant growth complex on campus), as well the UWA Field Station at Shenton Park.



## Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative

AHRI is a research leader in herbicide resistance in Australian cropping. With major funding from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Australian Research Council (ARC) and industry, AHRI is focused on sustainable cropping and weed control.

AHRI is headquartered at UWA and houses a multi-disciplinary team of researchers and communications specialists. The team's research activities include understanding the biology and control of major weed species through to development of agronomic and herbicide management strategies. Fundamental research occurs at the biochemical and molecular level.

Stewardship of herbicide and non-herbicide weed control tools is a central tenet of all AHRI research and communication. The words "diversity" and the AHRI expression "when on a good thing, don't stick to it" underpin AHRI research and communication aimed at long term durability of all crop weed management tools and practices.

UWA, through AHRI, has leadership in weed RD&E. AHRI Director Stephen Powles is widely recognised as the national and global leader in herbicide resistance research.

Michael Walsh has pioneered harvest weed seed control (HWSC) research, nationally and now internationally.

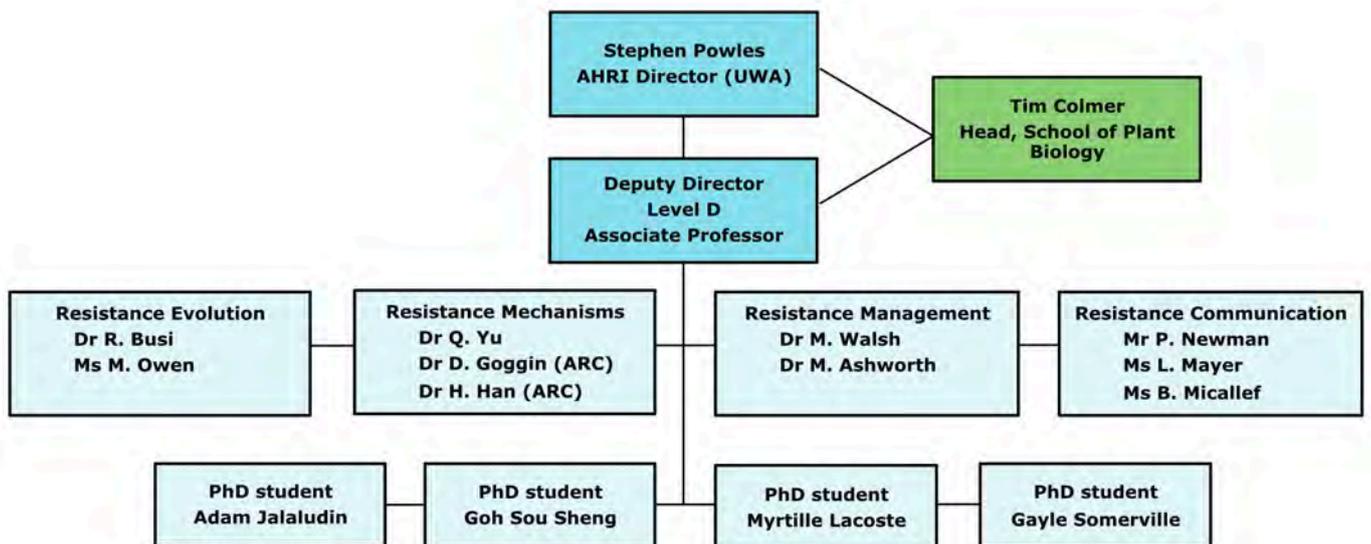
Qin Yu is a leader in research on the biochemical, molecular and genetic bases of herbicide resistance in major Australian crop weeds.

Roberto Busi is a leader in research identifying rapid resistance evolution following low herbicide dose recurrent selection.

Mechelle Owen has set the standard for large (10M ha) random geographical surveys and subsequent characterisation of herbicide resistance in crop weeds.

AHRI Communications Leader Peter Newman is widely recognised as one of the nation's most effective and respected communicators with advisers and farmers.

# AHRI UWA research team 2014





## Western Australia and Perth

The resource-rich State of Western Australia is the economic powerhouse of Australia. Western Australia is the principal Australian supplier of natural resources and energy to international partners, including China, India, Japan, South Korea and much of South-East Asia. Western Australia's diverse inventory of minerals and energy, as well as its agricultural and fisheries resources, account for 25 per cent of the nation's exports and place the State at the heart of Australian economic growth and transformation.

Western Australia and its capital Perth occupy the same time zone as 60 per cent of the world's population and the nations that promise the greatest economic growth of the 21st century. Western Australia is also Australia's largest state, covering some 2.5 million square kilometres and 12,500 kilometres of coastline, including some of the most ancient landscapes in the world. The State's population is matching the rapid growth of the economy and is over two and a half million.

Perth is a cosmopolitan city, with wide ethnic and cultural diversity. The city centre is on the Swan River 12 kilometres from the Indian Ocean port of Fremantle.

The city enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with more hours of sunshine than any other capital city in Australia. Summers are hot and dry and the winters mild and wet. Perth's world-famous beaches, extensive parklands and variety of restaurants and cafes provide a superb living environment. For more information see: [tourism.wa.gov.au](http://tourism.wa.gov.au)

Perth is well served with art galleries, theatres and cinemas and is home to the WA Symphony Orchestra, the WA Ballet and the WA Opera. The cultural highlight of the year is the Perth International Arts Festival, founded and owned by The University of Western Australia – [uwa.edu.au/perthfestival](http://uwa.edu.au/perthfestival)

Western Australia's five universities and wide variety of public and private schools, vocational institutions and English language colleges provide quality assured education with flexible study pathways and state-of-the-art facilities. Perth continues to build its reputation as a destination for international students seeking a quality education – [studypertth.com.au](http://studypertth.com.au)

