



# MASSEY UNIVERSITY

## JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title:** Research Assistant

**Department:** School of Food and Nutrition

**Campus/Location:** Wellington

**Responsible to:** Dr M Thunders

**Purpose Statement:** To provide molecular biological technical support for Dr Thunders in her research projects for a period of 18 months at 0.4FTE.

### **Key Accountabilities:**

1. DNA extractions from buccal samples
2. Development of PCR Assays for genotyping
3. Genotyping through RFLP and agarose gel electrophoresis
4. Assist PG students in lab with understanding above procedures
5. Input data into Excel spreadsheet
6. Carry out literature analyses, aid in manuscript preparation
7. Undertake other duties as may be assigned.

### **Reason for fixed term:**

This position is to support Dr Thunders and her research during the period she has taken on 0.5 FTE College of Health Director of Teaching and Learning role.

**Other information:** This is a part-time fixed-term position. The working hours are flexible but should equate to 0.4FTE for a period of 18 months. Prior laboratory experience with DNA extraction, PCR based genotyping, and agarose gel electrophoresis is essential for this post. Familiarity with data management and analysis software such as MS Excel is desirable. The suitable candidate will have a graduate/postgraduate qualification in a related field. The ability to work well independently and as part of a team is essential for this position and the ideal candidate should have a track record of working on molecular biology research projects.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### **Qualifications:**

- BSc or MSc in Molecular Biology or equivalent

### **Experience:**

- Molecular biology laboratory experience in a university or other tertiary teaching environment

### **Skills, Knowledge, Abilities, Personal Attributes, Competencies:**

- Capable and enthusiastic
- Able to work well independently and as part of a team
- Flexible and self-motivated
- Proven competence in a research environment