

Humble Bee Bio

Vacancy: R&D Scientist with Genetics & Bioinformatics Skills



Supported by Callaghan Innovation R&D Career Grant

Inquiries and Submissions: info@humblebee.co.nz

Humble Bee Bio is an emerging biotech company combining the power of synthetic biology and the code from a solitary bee to create a new advanced material and help solve one of our toughest global challenges: plastic pollution. The new material has the potential to replace the use of existing plastics and chemicals used in the textiles sector and other industries.

There is an opportunity to join us on our mission to create novel biomaterials that solve market and environmental problems. This role is supported by Callaghan Innovation through their R&D Career Grant. The role is a fixed term contract for 6 months with the potential for extension into a permanent role.

Purpose of Role:

This role will have a dual purpose:

- > To apply your research skills & talent to advance the ambitious R&D programme and support the company as it grows.
- > To grow your capability in biotechnology and business skills. Humble Bee Bio will provide opportunity and exposure to the full spectrum of biotechnology and business activities.

In this role you'll be developing new technology, helping disrupt the global plastics industry, and helping advance a New Zealand biotech to market while gaining valuable exposure to commercial R&D in biotech to help grow your career.

Responsibilities & Tasks:

All responsibilities and tasks will be in full collaboration with the CTO.

- > Technical input into the genetic identification & characterisation of key motifs, gene clusters, gene regulation, transcriptomics, proteomics and

biosynthetic pathways to inform future experimental studies.

- > Execution of bioinformatic analysis and tasks using in-house and external databases.
- > Continue to build out our in-house genomic databases and develop toolboxes.
- > Design and oversight of experimental work. The majority of our R&D is outsourced to contractor research organisations (CROs) – typically academic groups, research institutes and biotech services companies. Oversight will require considerable understanding of the science, specified deliverables and evaluation of the outputs.
- > Project manage CRO partners to ensure projects are on task against timelines, deliverables and milestones.
- > Technical guidance for genomics, molecular biology, protein expression & biomaterial activities and strategy.
- > Work to drive the efficiency and effectiveness of the R&D function by improving processes and idea cross pollination.
- > Work collaboratively with the Humble Bee Bio's world-class Advisory Groups to maximise the value and output from the R&D programme.
- > Provide input into the patent strategy, capital strategy and product development strategy.
- > Troubleshoot technically complex design problems, and propose solutions or experimental plans to resolve or correct for them.
- > Maintain high-quality documentation of your work and discoveries, in the forms

of written reports, technical presentations, internal database records, code comments, and software documentation

- > Communication and reporting of the technical progress to management and Board of Directors.

Required Skills and Experience:

- > PhD in genetics, molecular biology or similar preferably related to synthetic biology or bio-based material sciences.
- > Proficiency with software programming for bioinformatics.
- > First-hand technical experience in a number of the following disciplines: bioinformatics, phylogenetics, sequence analysis, comparative genomics, genome assembly & annotation, statistics, probabilistic modeling, machine learning, structural biology or quantitative modeling of biological systems.
- > Knowledge of, and an interest in, entomology is an advantage.
- > Self-driven with the ability to work autonomously with minimal supervision.
- > Strong curiosity for, and comfort working in, areas of biology, biotech & business previously unknown to you.
- > Highly organised and efficient.
- > Action-orientated GSD person.

Benefits and Details:

- > 40 hours a week.
- > Remuneration package to be determined.
- > NZ-based PhD graduate.
- > 6-month fixed term contract starting in April 2022.

Eligibility:

These eligibility criteria are set by Callaghan Innovation and are absolute requirements:

- > Be about to complete, or have recently completed your PhD degree. In other words, have submitted your thesis for marking less than 12 months ago.

- > Have undertaken your study at a New Zealand tertiary institution if you are not a New Zealand citizen.
- > Be legally permitted to work in New Zealand.
- > Not have been employed in the industry under a professional arrangement related to your area of study except temporary, part-time, or at a tertiary organisation.

Company Values:

We exist to create nature-inspired materials that improve global health.

Our team is curious, relentless, and passionate about building a better future.

If this is you, join us.

Apply:

Please note: we recognise that not all candidates may meet the entire list of desired skills & experience. We're eager to train the right candidates for this role, and encourage those who meet at least three quarters of criteria to apply.

To apply, please send us:

- > A cover letter describing a little about yourself, your prior work, your career goals, and what makes you interested in joining our team.
- > A résumé or curriculum vitae.

Please send this to: info@humblebee.co.nz.