

Job Title: Applied Plant & Animal Geneticist
Location: Dunedin, New Zealand or Sunshine Coast, Australia
Arrangement: Hybrid
Type: Full-Time Permanent
Prepared by: Managing Director – AbacusBio Limited
Date: 9/06/2025

AbacusBio Limited

AbacusBio is a science consultancy business that offers services and products in the agricultural, horticultural/cropping, forestry, and aquaculture sectors. The company has bases in Dunedin, New Zealand, Sunshine Coast, Australia, Edmonton, Alberta, and Edinburgh, UK. We are a vibrant business with an informal atmosphere.

Consultants and business managers work on a project-to-project basis across a wide range of scientific and business advisory areas. Our values are:

Deliver Excellence Every Day

- We take pride in the work we do. We go above and beyond to deliver exceptional impact for our clients and our world.

Be True to Self and Kind to Others

- We celebrate the uniqueness, values, and backgrounds of our team and clients. We are grounded, welcoming and all-round good people.

Strong as a Global Team

- We care about people. Our strength is teamwork and intellectual collaboration. We draw on global experience and diversity of thought for the benefit of our clients.

AbacusBio actively seeks to progress the careers of its staff members through both internal and external training opportunities.

Role Overview

AbacusBio seeks a full-time geneticist experienced in plant and/or animal breeding and genetics for their Australian or New Zealand office. We need a skilled individual with a focus on biology and economics to join our team. This role offers the chance to enhance global food and fibre production efficiency.

The Applied Plant/Animal Geneticist collaborates with AbacusBio's global clients to enhance plant and animal breeding, production systems, and technology evaluation. The role also involves business development and client management.

Whilst employed by AbacusBio based in Australasia, the appointee will be working with global clients, and interacting with colleagues in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Analyse extensive agriculturally relevant biological and economic data to generate reliable insights for breeding decisions.
- Handling, processing, and interpretation of datasets associated with plant and animal performance and pedigree (including DNA/genotype information).
- Genetic/genomic analysis of trial and commercial datasets for breeding value estimation.
- Consideration of system wide economic and sustainability metrics in the practical application of genetic improvement programs.

- Monitor and manage timely and accurate delivery of projects to clients and support the development of internal systems that do the same.
- Engage with potential clients to demonstrate our solutions and assist in the ideation, initiation, planning phases of projects.
- Leverage existing international networks and build a broader network in plant (both inbred and outcrossing plants) and animal systems and evaluation to the benefit of AbacusBio and our clients.
- Participate in third party conferences, workshops, and meetings to advance knowledge and provide leadership.

Qualifications and Experience

The successful applicant must have a science-based degree, along with a higher-level post-graduate qualification (MSc or PhD), and postdoctoral or subsequent experience in quantitative/statistical genetics, bioinformatics, computational biology, genetic improvement, or a closely related field.

The role requires strong writing skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office. Essential knowledge includes R, SAS, or other data analysis tools, and quantitative genetics methods. Application of these methods in animals or inbred crops and outcrossing plants is desirable.

The successful applicant should be skilled in using statistical and mathematical software for genetic/genomic analysis (e.g. ASReml, ASReml-R, MiX99, MixBLUP, BLUPF90, DMU) and capable of writing and editing reports, documents, and scientific papers.

Key Attributes

- The successful candidate will be proactive, solve problems, and collaborate with both internal teams and clients. They should identify needs and offer solutions using their expertise.
- The ideal candidate will have formal training in plant or animal breeding and genetics, experience in genetic improvement and production science, or another relevant field.
- Strong interpersonal skills and effective communication with farmers, researchers, business managers, technical managers, and government organisations from diverse backgrounds are essential. Effective client interaction throughout project stages is necessary.
- Efficiency, pragmatism, and time management are essential. You will handle project delivery operations, requiring experience in project management or leadership. Excellent organizational skills and the ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment are necessary.
- Must be willing to travel internationally and work in a professional business setting.

Must be eligible to work in Australia or New Zealand.

Please only apply for this role through Seek. Please do not email the company.