

POSITION INFORMATION

Position Title	Post-doctoral Research Fellow - Healthy Brain and Mind Research Centre (Neuroscience of Addiction and Mental Health Program).		
Faculty	Faculty of Health Sciences		
School	School of Behavioural and Health Sciences		
Nominated Supervisor	Dr Valentina Lorenzetti	Campus/Location	Melbourne Campus (St Patrick's)
Academic Level	Academic Level B.1	Academic Career Pathway	Research-focussed
CDF Achievement Level	1 All Staff	Work Area Position Code	*
Employment Type	Full-time 1 FTE Fixed term	Date reviewed	April 2020

ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement: *Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.*

At ACU we pride ourselves on offering a welcoming environment for everyone. At the same time, we are a university committed to standing for something clear. We stand up for people in need and causes that matter. ACU's Mission is central to the University, and informs every area – integrating the dignity of the human person, the common good, and ethical and social justice considerations into our core activities of student learning and teaching, research and service.

We are a publicly-funded university which has grown rapidly over the past few years. We're young, but we are making our mark: ranking among the top universities worldwide. We have got seven campuses around Australia, more than 200 partner universities on six continents, and a campus in Rome, Italy.

We know that our people make us a university like no other. It's your values, action and passion that makes the difference. Whatever role you may play in our organisation: it's what you do that defines who we are.

We value staff, offering excellent leave and employment conditions, and foster work environments where they have the ability grow and develop. We continue to invest in our facilities and workplaces, and actively involve staff in shaping the future direction of the organisation.

In order to be agents of change in the world, we all need to see life through the eyes of others. We believe that our role as a university is to inspire and equip people to make a difference – and that means cultivating their ability to act and think empathetically.

We hope that you might champion these values, and work with us to create a place of learning that is not only the envy of the world, but the making of it.

The structure to support this complex and national University consists of:

- Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
- Chief Operating Officer & Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Innovation)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Coordination)

- Vice President

Each portfolio consists of a number of Faculties, Research Institutes or Directorates. The Vice President drives both the Identity and the [Mission](#) of the University. In addition, five Associate Vice-Chancellors and Campus Deans focus on the University's local presence and development of the University at the local 'campus' level.

ABOUT FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

The Faculty of Health Sciences offers courses in biomedical science, clinical education, clinical exercise physiology, exercise and cancer, exercise science, health administration, healthcare simulation education, high performance sport, mental health, midwifery, nursing, nutrition science, occupational therapy, paramedicine, physiotherapy, psychology, public health, rehabilitation, social work and speech pathology.

Our vision is to provide caring and prepared graduates who promote health and prevent illness for Australia's health and sports industries, and provide quality healthcare for vulnerable communities such as the Indigenous, elderly and disabled.

The Schools are:

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine (National)

School of Allied Health (National)

School of Behavioural and Health Sciences (National)

The Faculty's courses are developed within the Catholic intellectual tradition with the goal of preparing graduates in health with an emphasis on social justice and equity, and sustainability.

Further information about the Faculty can be found at: <https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/faculties-directorates-and-staff/faculty-of-health-sciences/faculty-research>

ABOUT THE HEALTHY BRAIN AND MIND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Healthy Brain and Mind Research Centre aims to advance knowledge critical to improving mental health, performance and well-being. Mental health and developmental disorders have significant negative impacts upon the mortality and social participation of the most vulnerable members of the community and are among the most urgent global challenges of the 21st century. The Centre seeks to make significant contributions to mental health, participation and well-being by integrating cutting edge research expertise and technology spanning neuroscience, addiction science, clinical psychology, developmental psychology, and rehabilitation science to improve the understanding, prevention and treatment of mental health and developmental disorders. The Healthy Brain and Mind Research Centre includes a program of research focused on the *Neuroscience of Addiction and Mental Health*.

ABOUT THE NEUROSCIENCE OF ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Addiction is highly prevalent and has devastating effects on the lives of 35 million people globally. This program aims to resolve a deep evidence gap on the mechanisms of vulnerability and recovery in addiction and related mental health problems. The overarching focus of this program is to map the clinical, cognitive and brain mechanisms that *predate* and *predict* the onset of addiction, substance use behaviours, and related mental health problems (e.g. depression, anxiety, psychosis), the factors that *exacerbate* brain and mental health harms in people with addiction, and to pave the way for new strategies *to recover* these harms. To achieve our aims, we use next-generation multimodal brain imaging tools, longitudinal neuroimaging consortia, large cohort studies, and carefully-controlled experiments including behavioural and pharmacological interventions. Ultimately, this Program will generate new high-quality evidence to transform neuroscientific theories of addiction, and to inform the identification of prevention and treatment targets. Our vision is to alleviate the devastating impact of addiction on the lives of those affected, their families, and the broader society.

POSITION PURPOSE

The appointed Postdoctoral Research Fellow will work with the team to build capacity in the area of the neuroscience of addiction and mental health as the primary outcome of a series of studies of the Neuroscience of Addiction and Mental Health Program. The current set of proposed projects capitalises on a series of existing large scale neuroimaging consortia, cohort studies and neuroimaging studies, as well as systematic reviews and meta-analyses. The research fellow will be expected to assist the team in disseminating these findings via high impact publications and supporting competitive external grant applications to further grow the capacity and impact of our Centre.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

A number of frameworks and standards express the University's expectations of the conduct, capability, participation and contribution of staff. These are listed below:

- ACU Strategic Plan 2015-2020
- Catholic Identity and Mission
- Learning For Life Framework 2014-2017
- ACU Teaching Criteria and Standards Framework
- Research Quality Standards
- Academic Performance Matrices and Evidence Framework
- ACU Capability Development Framework
- Minimum Standards for Academic Levels (MSALs)
- Higher Education Standards Framework
- ACU Service Delivery Model
- ACU Staff Enterprise Agreement including provisions in relation to Performance Excellence and Academic Career Pathways.

The following two frameworks in particular are important in understanding the expectations of an academic position and the required qualifications and capability of a position holder:

- The [Academic Performance Matrices and Evidence Framework](#) which describes the performance standards in areas of academic activity.
- The [Capability Development Framework](#) which describes the core competencies needed in all ACU staff to achieve the University's strategy and supports its mission.

All academic staff are allocated workload comprising a range of academic duties/activities that fall within the following three broad areas of academic activity in line with the relevant Academic Career Pathway and Academic Level.

- Teaching, Curriculum Development and Scholarship of Teaching
- Research
- Academic leadership/service.

Key responsibilities

Broad area of academic activity	Key responsibilities specific to this position	Relevant Core Competencies (<u>Capability Development Framework</u>)
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively assist in the development of the new stream of research; • Actively assist in the conduct, development and completion of newly funded neuroscientific multimodal neuroimaging projects on addiction and mental health; • Drive and actively assist in the conduct of systematic reviews and meta-analyses; • Drive and actively assist the collection and the analysis of neuroimaging data in the above- mentioned projects; • Collaborate and support Centre related projects and research staff as required; • Active participation in the communication and dissemination of research where appropriate; • Drive and actively assist in the production of high quality scientific publications based on research findings in the above-mentioned projects; • Development of an academic research profile in the areas of Addiction, Mental Health and Neuroimaging, including identifying sources of funding and applying for grants and fellowships; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate Effectively • Communicate with Impact • Apply Commercial Acumen
Academic Leadership and Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise students who work on the mentioned studies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach and Develop

QUALIFICATIONS AND CAPABILITY OF THE POSITION HOLDER

Qualifications and Capability (Selection Criteria)	
Qualifications and other credentials	
1.	PhD or near completion in a relevant area (<i>cognitive neurosciences, psychology</i> or related discipline)

Qualifications and Capability (Selection Criteria)	
Research	
2.	Highly motivated and enthusiastic researcher with a strong interest in the areas of neuroscience, addiction and mental health, with an outstanding ability to constructively collaborate with and support fellow team members
3.	Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team to meet agreed deadlines and achieve project goals.
4.	A strong and relevant research track record, evidenced by publications in refereed international neuroscientific journals, and by expertise in advanced multimodal neuroimaging methods and techniques (e.g. diffusion-weighted, volumetry/thickness and functional MRI).
Academic leadership/service	
5.	Outstanding interpersonal, written and oral communication skills and capacity to initiate, manage and maintain partnerships and collaborations; and tutoring and training of students and fellow team members in new methodologies.
Core Competencies	
6.	Live ACU's Mission, Vision and Values: Demonstrate confidence and courage in achieving ACU's Mission, Vision and Values by connecting the purpose of one's work to ACU's Mission, Vision and Values.
7.	Deliver Stakeholder Centric Service: Keep stakeholder interests at the core of ACU business decisions and ACU service excellence as a top priority. See the ACU Service Delivery Model .
8.	Collaborate Effectively: Work collaboratively internally and externally to ACU to capitalise on all available expertise in pursuit of excellence.
9.	Be Responsible and Accountable for Achieving Excellence: Take personal accountability for achieving the highest quality outcomes through understanding the ACU context, self-reflection, and aspiring to and striving for excellence.
Other attributes	
10.	Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity and ethical practice principles and demonstrated knowledge of equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety, appropriate to the level of the appointment.