POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Languages and Cultures
Position Number: TBA
Type of Employment: Fixed term for 3 years
Classification: Academic Research Level A

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience – the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland’s highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.
UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

Organisational Environment

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) is a large comprehensive Faculty with a broad academic profile and substantial research achievements. The Faculty Office is based at the St Lucia campus in the iconic Forgan Smith building adjacent to the Great Court of the University. The current Executive Dean is Professor Julie Duck who is Acting in the role following the transition of Professor Tim Dunne to a Pro-Vice-Chancellor position in the Office of the Provost.

The Faculty comprises seven Schools (Communication & Arts; Education; Historical & Philosophical Inquiry; Languages & Cultures; Music; Political Science & International Studies; Social Science), two research Institutes (Institute for Social Science Research; Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities), two museums (Anthropology Museum and the RD Milns Antiquities Museum), a new Faculty Centre for Policy Futures, and several school-based research centres. The Faculty is also host to the Institute for Modern Languages and the Confucius Institute. The Faculty offers a broad range of programs to a large cohort of international and domestic students, with 850 research higher degree students, approximately 1,500 students in postgraduate coursework degrees and close to 8,000 undergraduates.

There are over 300 academic staff across the Faculty, making it one of the largest in Australia. One indicator of the Faculty’s standing in the disciplines that we research is membership in the learned academies, where UQ can proudly claim 33 members of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and 50 members of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Teaching in the Faculty is underpinned by substantial research performance and several specialized fields of research were judged at the highest level (5 ranking) in the 2015 Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) round. These fields include Specialist Studies in Education; Political Science; Cultural Studies; Literary Studies; History and Philosophy of Specific Fields. Overall, HASS returned outputs to 21 disciplinary field codes, where 90% were rated above (4 ranking) or well above world standard (5 ranking). This is indicative of high quality and capacity in research.

These research achievements internationally are reflected in the 2017 Leiden rankings (based on impact, not reputation), where the Humanities and Social Sciences at UQ ranks 16th in the world on the quantum of publications in ranked journals, placing us first in Australia and in the Oceania region (for the full data-set see http://www.leidenranking.com).

The quality of our overall Faculty’s performance is also evident in the QS World University Rankings for 2017 which places Social Sciences/Management at UQ at 39th in the world, and Humanities at 50th in the world. This data can be accessed at: http://www.topuniversities.com/faculty-rankings.

More information about the Faculty can be accessed at http://www.hass.uq.edu.au.
The **School of Languages and Cultures** is one of the largest Schools of language instruction in Australia with over 45 academic staff.

The School teaches Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish, as well as Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, to students in the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of International Studies, the university-wide concurrent Diploma in Languages, the Diploma of Arts, and dual degree programs.

At postgraduate level the School offers two NAATI-accredited Masters programs in Translation and Interpreting (one in Japanese and one in Chinese) and a large Masters program in Applied Linguistics. Staff research and supervise PhD students in a diverse range of fields relating to languages and cultures.

Details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s web site at [https://languages-cultures.uq.edu.au/](https://languages-cultures.uq.edu.au/) or [http://researchers.uq.edu.au](http://researchers.uq.edu.au).

**Information for Prospective Staff**

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - [http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq](http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq)

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](#) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

**DUTY STATEMENT**

**Larger Research Environment**

CoEDL, the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language ([www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au](http://www.dynamicsoflanguage.edu.au)), has an ambitious series of interlinked projects, focusing on language as a dynamic and variable system, and drawing on the full diversity of the world’s languages, through four programs focusing on the design space of language (Shape), how it is learned (Learning) and processed (Processing), and how linguistic structures evolve at various timescales (Evolution). Two ‘threads’ (Archiving, and New Generation technologies) will enable the technological advances needed to drive forward the language sciences in the coming decades. The Centre is strongly interdisciplinary and features researchers from linguistics, speech pathology, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, bioinformatics and robotics. CoEDL is centred on four Australian Universities (Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Western Sydney and University of Queensland), with partner institutions in Australasia and the Pacific, Asia, Europe and North America.

We are recruiting on an ongoing basis a substantial number of three-year postdoctoral positions for the second phase of the Centre’s activities, to start from mid-2018. Each of these positions is free to international competition, will be based in the University most appropriate to their project, and will be selected by a subset of the Centre’s personnel. These positions are primarily research-based, offering the possibility of substantial freedom of research within the broad ambit of the Centre and its programs. They come with appropriate research setup and ongoing research support costs (e.g. fieldwork support for field-based positions), and offer some possibilities for limited teaching. The following foci have been identified for recruitment in this first round, as set out below: intending applicants should specify which position(s) they are interested in, and include a two-page summary of the research they would plan to do during their fellowship. For details of specific support and expectations they should contact the named member of the team given below.
Primary Purpose of Position

The position will be funded from the Centre, but have a dual affiliation with the Centre, the University of Queensland and the School of Languages and Cultures. The Postdoctoral Fellow will report to Dr Felicity Meakins with regards to the overall project aims and their role within it. They will work closely with other team and Centre members, both within the Institution they are hired to and across other linked Institutions.

The appointee at the University of Queensland will work in close collaboration with the team leader Dr Felicity Meakins on one of the following topics.

- Language contact or change in an Australian language;
- Multiregional variation in an Australian language;
- Description of a new Australian contact language.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

In collaboration with Dr Meakins, the candidate will:

- Undertake research within the overall project, with a particular focus on Australian languages.
- Publish original research, jointly or individually as appropriate, across a range of publication outlets.
- Contribute to supervision of Honours, Masters and PhD students in the Centre (as appropriate).
- From time to time, give and help organise workshops or other intensive training sessions aimed at developing knowledge of appropriate specialised areas, under the ambit of the Centre, in Australia and/or the region.
- Active involvement in the organisation of overall Centre activities as appropriate.

Teaching

- Undertake limited teaching – approximately 10% of time (one course/year), with details subject to negotiation.

Service and Engagement

- Perform a range of administrative functions in the School.
- Foster the School’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor.
Other

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:

- the University’s Code of Conduct
- requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related OH&S responsibilities and procedures developed by the University or Institute/School
- the adoption of sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University sustainability responsibilities and procedures
- requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related responsibilities and procedures developed by the University

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the Head of School and supervisor Dr Felicity Meakins.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in the area of Linguistics.
- Demonstrated expert knowledge in the area of language contact, spatial relations and/or Australian languages.
- Demonstrated teaching skills at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- An ability to establish effective relationships and to represent and promote an academic discipline at a university and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies.
- Demonstrated fieldwork ability to work on an under-described language in remote field conditions.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team, with collaborators from a variety of cultural and intellectual backgrounds.
- Track record of publication of research findings in peer reviewed journals and volumes.
- Demonstrated high level interpersonal skills including the ability to consult and negotiate with other stakeholders to ensure project objectives are met.
- Demonstrated high level written and oral communication skills including the ability to write technical reports.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as a member of a team.
- Demonstrated high level understanding of equal opportunity principles and a commitment to the application in a university context is essential.

Desired

- Capacity to contribute to student supervision at various levels.

Program of Research

Outline a clear and innovative plan (c. 2 pages) addressing what the applicant sees as an exciting and unexplored contact language or language contact/change question involving Australian languages. Any proposal that expands our knowledge of contact/change in Australian languages through a combination of fieldwork and other appropriate methods will be considered, and it may involve fieldwork in any region where Australian language contact/change is found, so applicants should feel free to make their own identification of site and question. Proposals will be ranked by the case they make for the relative importance of this as a vital next step in our understanding of Australian language contact, as well as the feasibility of the project within the time frame and resources.

Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.
Qualification Verification
An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University's Diversity and Inclusion webpage (http://www.uq.edu.au/equity) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.