POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Institute for Social Science Research
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term for 2 years with the potential for extension subject to funding
Classification: Research Academic 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 $11 billion+ (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 Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR) is a national leader in advanced interdisciplinary social science and evidence based policy research. ISSR researchers address some of the most important issues and challenges facing Australia today in areas
such as health, education, employment, housing, social wellbeing, homelessness, policing and security, sustainability, and Indigenous studies. The Institute conducts research on priority issues and offers commercial services and training for public and private sector organisations. It also provides high-quality learning experiences for postgraduate and postdoctoral students, and has some of the most advanced research facilities for data collection and analysis in the country. The Institute employs over 100 faculty and staff, has an annual budget of $10 million and includes affiliated researchers in the fields of political science, sociology, social policy, geographical sciences, economics, psychology, education, demography, mathematics and statistics. In mid-2015, ISSR relocated from the St Lucia Campus to the University's new Long Pocket precinct (off Meiers Road, Indooroopilly).

The research group in which this position sits includes the recently created health programs to examine the social issues such as family violence which contribute to and are impacted by health conditions including substance use and mental health problems. Further information can be found at http://www.issr.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

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The Institute for Social Science Research seeks to appoint a suitably qualified early career researcher to undertake research in social and population health. The successful appointee for this position will contribute to quantitative and qualitative research as well as community-focused applied research. The work program for this position is led by Professor Rosa Alati and the position will be located inside the Alati Group in ISSR. The applicant will develop their research portfolio examining issues related to the health of women and children, preparing research papers for publication in high-quality peer-reviewed journals and making substantial contributions to grant and tender applications.

The work program for this position will entail a mix of conventional academic and translational initiatives. This will involve conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses, analysis of secondary data and drafting research papers for publication. The position will also involve contribution to community and government focussed-research and training projects undertaken in conjunction with ISSR’s partners such as: contract research and evaluations for government or community-based partners, preparing and presenting courses within professional development and training programs and drafting technical and government reports as appropriate.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research and Project Management

- Conduct systematic reviews and meta-analyses on a range of health related topics.
- Conduct mixed methods research, with a focus on statistical analysis of administrative and survey data sets to address key research questions.
- Undertake research and publication associated with the Alati Group, with the aim that this research is published in high-ranked international journals.
- Assist in preparation of proposals, research grant applications and tenders.
- Prepare and present research reports to stakeholders, including at conferences.
- Assist the Group leader and other staff in achieving their research objectives.
- Comply with all ethics, integrity and data management requirements.

**External Engagement**
- Assist in developing the Group’s relationships with industry, government, professional bodies and the wider community.

**Teaching and Learning**
- Contribute to the development and delivery of new teaching materials for undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as the opportunity arises.
- Development and delivery of professional development courses (including workshops and seminars), as the opportunity arises.

**Administration**
- Perform a range of administrative functions in the ISSR, as required.
- Contribute to the processes that enable the Group to manage its work.

**Other**
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor.

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 Professor Alati, Group Leader, Institute for Social Science Research.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**

- Applicants must hold a PhD (or be close to completion) in public health or a related area with a strong statistical component.

- Evidence of expertise (via publications) in conducting:
  - Research into gender issues impacting on health
  - Systematic reviews and meta-analyses and
  - Analysis of trends and longitudinal data analysis.

- Experience in health system evaluation and other examples of policy translation, including commissioned research.

- Ability to work effectively in multidisciplinary research teams, as well as independently, and take initiative for leadership.

- Ability to establish effective relationships with multiple stakeholders such as government and not-for-profit agencies, and to represent and promote research opportunities to these parties.

- Ability to manage competing priorities, and work against multiple tight deadlines.

- High level of interpersonal and communication skills.

- High levels of personal integrity and transparency in all undertakings.

**Desirable**

- Established networks with international research groups

- Technical expertise in statistical packages e.g. STATA

**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.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

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