POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: School of Education
Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Fixed term, full-time or part-time (job share)
Classification: HEW Level 6

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://uniques.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 Education

The School of Education is consistently ranked as one of Australia’s leading research and teaching institutions in the field of education. It has a strong commitment to addressing issues of education and equity in the context of rapid social, economic and cultural change. The School’s education programs and research agendas have focused on driving state and national educational innovation and reform.

The School currently offers the following teacher preparation programs: one four-year Bachelor of Education (Primary Years), a range of Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Dual Degrees, a Master of Teaching (Primary) and a Master of Teaching (Secondary). It also offers professional development opportunities via its suite of postgraduate coursework programs, and has a vibrant postgraduate research community.

The School’s staff are internationally cited and recognised for outstanding work in such fields as sociology and policy studies in education, educational psychology and learning sciences, inclusive education, literacy and numeracy, pedagogy and school reform and leadership.

Further information and details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s web site at https://education.uq.edu.au/.

Information about the School may be accessed on the School’s web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/education

ARC Project: Developing classroom norms of inquiry based learning in mathematics

This project aims to study inquiry norms in primary mathematics classrooms, including expert teachers’ signature practices, how norms are developed and their effect on learning. Classroom norms dictate the learning environment in school mathematics, but many students have lost interest in STEM subjects. This project aims to boost inquiry norms that engage students in productive social interactions, improve their mathematical knowledge and their interest in, valuing of and capacity to solve complex problems.

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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

In conjunction with the Chief Investigators the appointee(s) will be responsible for supporting the different components of the ARC funded project Developing classroom norms of inquiry based learning in mathematics including organising and driving the fieldwork, data collection and other associated project outputs.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research
- Manage and coordinate the research project components and, in conjunction with the research team, develop work plans to meet project outcomes and timelines.
- Assist the research investigators in gathering and processing qualitative and quantitative data including interviews, observations, videotaping classroom lessons, questionnaires and/or other data collection methodologies.
- Maintain efficient and compliant record keeping systems ensuring data is accessible to researchers.
- Collate, synthesize, review and analyse literature / project findings and communicate findings through written reports and social media (eg blog writing).
- Assist with the design of professional development materials.
- Work both independently and collaboratively as part of a team
- Perform other tasks commensurate with position responsibilities that enable the effective operation of the project

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 Associate Professor Katie Makar, Chief Investigator on the project.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
- Completion of a degree in a field related to education with at least 2 years’ subsequent relevant experience; or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
- Experience with qualitative and/or quantitative data gathering and/or processing experience in an educational setting.
- Demonstrated high level written communication skills evidenced by the ability to analyse literature and/or project findings and prepare high quality academic reports.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively as well as autonomously, managing workload and time constraints under broad direction.
- Hold, or be eligible to hold, a valid Queensland Government Blue Card.
- The ability to travel to sites other than the UQ St Lucia Campus to undertake interviews and classroom observations.
- Demonstrated research project management skills
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.

Applicants should indicate in their application if they are seeking a full-time or part-time position. Flexible working arrangements may be negotiated with the successful applicant(s).

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