POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Position Number: 3038757
Type of Employment: Part time, Fixed term
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 (45), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (51), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index; and secured a greater share of Australian Research Council grants in 2016 ($24.5 million) than any other university nationally.

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 230,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.7 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://uniqest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and will have further success in this area as an important strategic aim going forward.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

The Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences is a strong faculty that has a coherent focus on health and well-being underpinned by a clear integrative theme related to preventative health and behaviour change. Furthermore, the Faculty provides the opportunity for the allied health sciences to have a strong voice and great visibility within the University.

The Faculty currently includes six schools and three research centres:

- School of Dentistry
- School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
- School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences
- School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work
- School of Pharmacy
- School of Psychology
- Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research
- RECOVER Injury Research Centre
- Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences (QAEHS)

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

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

The School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at The University of Queensland was established in 1994 and is one of seven schools in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The constituent disciplines in the School are Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech Pathology. Undergraduate programs are available in Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech Pathology with graduate entry programs available in all disciplines. Postgraduate coursework and higher degree research programs are offered within the School. Each of the undergraduate degree programs is of four years’ duration and includes both preclinical and clinical study offered in an integrated way. The graduate entry programs are accelerated two-year programs, inclusive of summer semesters. Considerable emphasis is placed within the educational programs on problem solving and diagnostic decision-making and students are guided in the processes of systematic and holistic assessment and the selection and effective implementation of management approaches. Each discipline prepares students to operate within the health, education and related systems and to contribute meaningfully to team efforts. Teaching to multidisciplinary groups within the School paves the way for interdisciplinary involvement in client care and interdisciplinary research.

All disciplines within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences are active in research and are making significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in their professions. Students within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences gain supervised professional experience as part of their academic program and on completion of their degree; graduates are ready for immediate entry to their profession.

Further details about the School and its activities may be accessed on the School’s web site at http://www.shrs.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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The purpose of this position is to work as a Research Assistant on a project that will be carried out in the Centre for Neurorehabilitation, Ageing and Balance Research, under the Wesley Medical Research Neuroscience Grant: A physiotherapy exercise program with a self-management approach to improve physical activity in people with mild-moderate Parkinson’s disease: A Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)

The role of the Research Assistant is to work with the research team to advance the progress of this project.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

• Recruitment and screening of people with Parkinson’s disease.
• Management of recruitment processes and data.
• Undertaking laboratory and clinical assessments of participants with Parkinson’s disease, and training other staff in this role.
• Assessment data entry and preliminary analysis where appropriate.
• Assisting with trial administration, such as collating ethics documents, timetabling, organising transport.
• Contribution to manuscript preparation and reporting.
• Liaising with other research assistants, investigators, study participants and healthcare practitioners.
• Work with members of the research team.

Administration

• Accurately record results to the standard required by your supervisor.
• Perform a range of administrative functions relevant to the project.
• 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 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 Sandra Brauer (Chief Investigator of grant).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- The candidate must possess the equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy with subsequent relevant experience.
- Have current registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Physiotherapy Board of Australia, and possess a current Driver's license.
- Experience in working as a research assistant to recruit people with Parkinson's disease to clinical trials.
- Experience in performing Parkinson's-specific assessments for research.
- Experience in using ActivPAL.
- Understanding of clinical trials processes, ethics requirements and data management.
- Demonstrated high level interpersonal skills including the ability to consult and negotiate with participants and all stakeholders to ensure project objectives are met.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as a member of a team.
- High level of organisational skills.

Desirable

- Experience in managing clinical trials in Parkinson's populations.
- Engagement with the Parkinson’s community.
- Experience in supervising summer scholarship / Honours students.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion. Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.