POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: TC Beirne School of Law
Position Number: TBC
Type of Employment: Full-time, fixed term for 3 years
Classification: Academic (Research) Level B or C

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 CWTS Leiden Ranking (32), the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (48), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (69). Excluding the award component, UQ is now ranked 45th in the world in the ARWU, and is one of the only two Australian universities to be included in the global top 50.

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 52,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 15,400 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 250,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a $1.75 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

Based at the University of Queensland St Lucia as part of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Law, the TC Beirne School of Law is the oldest and most prestigious law school in Queensland, and one of Australia’s leading research-intensive law schools.

Currently, the School employs 50 full-time academic staff and 18 professional staff. The School’s talented and committed researchers and educators include national and international scholars, distinguished alumni and leaders of the legal profession who are recognised for their research and teaching excellence both nationally and internationally. The School is known for its high quality undergraduate teaching, postgraduate coursework and its Higher Research degree program.

With law programs that are ranked 36th in the world in the 2018 QS World University Rankings by Subject, the School offers students a premier legal education through small group teaching complemented by a comprehensive co-curricular program.

The School attracts the best and brightest students from Australia and abroad through its competitive entry requirements. It cultivates exceptional legal thinkers and leaders who use their discipline, ingenuity and initiative to change and enrich the world. The School is committed to introducing a small group seminar experience for students.

The School’s home, the west wing of the Forgan Smith building, recently underwent an exciting re-imagination and refurbishment to ensure future generations of UQ law students will continue to enjoy the highest quality and most relevant legal educational experience. Today, the School boasts world class state-of-the-art facilities, including one of Queensland’s largest law libraries and a range of work spaces including collaborative meeting spaces for staff and students. The School is committed to supporting and mentoring its early career researchers by encouraging their participation in conferences and their application for funded research fellowship.

Further information on the TC Beirne School of Law’s academic programs, research groups and staff profiles is available on the School’s website at http://www.law.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

This position contributes to a collaborative research partnership between UQ, the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy (UNSW Canberra) and the Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Centre (TAS-DCRC). The broader research program, in which this position is situated, investigates the legal and ethical implications of using autonomous systems in the armed forces, with a view to
providing value-sensitive input into systems design and policy development. The successful candidate will pursue a strong and productive research project in partnership with UQ and UNSW Canberra academics and Defence Science and Technology Group (DST Group) researchers in policy studies, political science, law, and science and technology studies (STS).

The work of the successful candidate will focus on one of the following areas:

- legal challenges of autonomous aerial navigation of military platforms;
- legal challenges of autonomous sea navigation;
- civil and criminal liability for military trusted autonomous systems;
- using trusted autonomous systems to improve compliance with the law of armed conflict; or
- export controls and sanctions for trusted autonomous systems.

The work will involve undertaking research on topics and questions agreed upon with the Project Lead for timely publication in reputable peer-reviewed journals and presentation at conferences, as well as developing workshops, writing grant proposals and completing other research-related administrative tasks. The successful candidate will liaise with other participants in the research program, which may require travel within Australia.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Research**

*Level B and C*

- Undertake independent and collaborative research leading to publications in leading peer-reviewed law journals.
- Present research findings at domestic and international conferences, as well as at other schools in UQ, other universities, DCRC-TAS, DST Group and industry partners.
- Mentor, co-supervise and attract postgraduate research students,
- Work collaboratively to identify ways in which disruptive technologies are likely to impact the armed forces.
- Contribute ideas for new research projects, and contribute to the preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies.

*Level C*

- Work independently to identify ways in which disruptive technologies are likely to impact the armed forces.
- Manage the preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies.

**Teaching and Learning**

*Level B and C*

- Contribute guest lecturers or seminars to a postgraduate course on international law and technology.
Advise undergraduate students enrolled in Advanced Research with topics directly related to autonomous military systems.

**Service and Engagement**

**Level B and C**
- Attend domestic and international meetings relating to the research project.
- Serve as a referee for academic journals and as a discussant at conferences.
- Review and comment on project proposals as a member of the DCRC-TAS Ethics and Law Advisory Group.
- Perform research-related administrative functions in the School.
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by the Project Lead.

**Level C**
- Manage relationships with external stakeholders upon the advice of the Project Lead.
- Effectively perform higher level internal duties.
- Make a strong contribution to external engagement.

**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**

These positions report to Associate Professor Rain Liivoja (Project Lead).
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

Level B and C
- LLB, JD or other qualifying law degree (a degree that fulfils the academic requirements for admission to legal practice in a jurisdiction).
- PhD in law or a related discipline, or substantial experience in legal practice.
- Demonstrated expert knowledge of international law.
- Ability to undertake high quality research, as evidenced by a track record of scholarly publications.
- Ability and willingness to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- Ability to communicate well in English, both orally and in writing.
- Commitment to upholding the University’s values, and with the outstanding personal qualities of openness, respectfulness and integrity.

Level C
- Demonstrated capacity for developing new research projects or programs.
- Ability to make independent and original contributions to research, which have a significant impact on legal scholarship or practice.

Desirable

Level B and C
- Experience working in multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary teams to influence legislation, operational guidelines, policy, strategy or technical designs.
- Practical understanding of, or training in, a relevant technical field (engineering, computer science, artificial intelligence, etc) and/or practical experience in a relevant military field.
- Developed industry liaisons and professional contacts.
- Experience in liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop co-operative research initiatives.

Security Clearance

The applicant must have, or have the ability and willingness to obtain, a baseline security clearance from the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA).

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 recruitment@uq.edu.au