POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Organisation Unit: School of Political Science and International Studies  
Position Number: New  
Type of Employment: Full-time, 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 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

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) is a large, multi-disciplinary Faculty with a broad academic profile, substantial research achievements and a commitment to public engagement. The Faculty is based at the St Lucia campus in the iconic Forgan Smith building, at the heart of the University - The Great Court.

HASS has entered an era of regenerative leadership. Executive Dean Professor Heather Zwicker joined UQ in spring 2018, and brings a fresh vision of interdisciplinary collaboration, public accountability and commitment to the student experience. Many Heads of School are also new to their roles and eager to ensure that HASS continues to be a powerhouse for disciplinary and interdisciplinary research across our Schools, Institutes and Centres, as well as boasting exciting, responsive teaching in a broad range of programs.

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 Centre for Policy Futures, and several school-based research centres. It also plays host to the Institute for Modern Languages and the Confucius Institute.

HASS has a strong identity and long tradition of innovation and leadership, offering a broad range of programs - including one of UQ’s largest, the Bachelor of Arts.

The complementary nature of our disciplines attract a diverse cohort of international and domestic students, with 640 research higher degree students, approximately 1,600 students in postgraduate coursework degrees and close to 7,000 undergraduates.

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences produces nationally and internationally regarded research across its many and varied disciplines. In addition to strong performance with external funding, UQ researchers in humanities and social sciences have won prizes, gained reputations for research excellence, performed exceptionally in the Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) exercise and in global university rankings, among many other measures.

Our strong performance reflects the quality of world-changing work our researchers are undertaking, with their breakthrough discoveries having a positive impact on society and changing the lives of others around the globe. Visit our Research Impact website for some of these stories.

HASS proudly claims a large number of Fellows in national disciplinary bodies, including the prestigious Australian Academy of the Humanities, and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.
The School of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) is at the forefront of teaching and research in political science, public policy, international relations and peace and conflict studies in Australia. The School’s academic teaching and research staff include internationally recognised scholars who are leaders in their research fields and award winners for innovation and excellence in teaching.

The School offers three world-renowned Masters programs in International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies, and Governance and Public Policy, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Mediation & Conflict Resolution. It makes an important contribution to the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Social Science and the Bachelor of International Studies undergraduate and honours degrees, with majors in peace and conflict studies, international relations, political science, and public policy. The School maintains a vibrant higher degree by research program, with over 80 doctoral students currently enrolled.

The School houses the Graduate Centre in Governance and International Affairs as the focal point for its postgraduate programs, the Rotary Centre for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution (one of only six centres worldwide funded by Rotary International) and the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (which is an Associate of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect based in New York).

Information about the Faculty and the School may be accessed on the Faculty’s web site at http://www.hass.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 position will provide support for the Head of School’s research, which lies in the field of freedom of speech and the regulation of harmful speech. As a part of their support for the Head of School, the position will assist the School in securing strategic teaching opportunities in the Asia Pacific region and undertake some teaching in the School, as well as independently pursue their own postdoctoral research in any field of political science.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Provide research assistance to the Head of School in the planning, administration and execution of her research projects and activities.
- Conduct and publish research on the appointee’s chosen topic, in any field of political science.
**Teaching**
- Assist the Graduate Centre in Governance and International Affairs in the pursuit of strategic opportunities in the Asia Pacific region.
- Teach up to one course per year within the School of Political Science and International Studies. The course to be taught will be negotiated with the successful appointee.

**Service and Engagement**
- Engage with the collegial life and activities of the School, Faculty and University.
- Any other duties as directed by the Head of School.

**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.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in any area of political science or a cognate discipline.
- Demonstrated expert knowledge in any area of political science, including but not limited to public policy and governance, Australian politics, or political theory.
- Demonstrated research skills using qualitative methods.
- Demonstrated high-level academic writing skills.
- Evidence of efficient organisational skills.
- Evidence of excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.

Desirable

- Research expertise in freedom of speech and related political theory, and/or the regulation of harmful speech, and related political philosophy.
- Experience in providing research assistance, including sourcing legal materials.

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](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 recruitment@uq.edu.au