POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Senior Counsellor
Organisation Unit: Student Services
Position Number: 3034220
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term 12 months
Classification: Hew Level 8

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 (40), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (54), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (66). 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 53,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 17,000 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 260,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a $2.15 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+.

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 Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (DVCA) is a member of The University’s senior executive, and is responsible for the University’s commitment to providing high-quality teaching and learning, and enhancing the UQ student experience.

The Student Affairs Division falls within the DVCA portfolio, which brings together central units that provide operational, corporate, and pastoral support for all aspects of the student lifecycle.

The Division is a key driver in enhancing the UQ student experience, and retention, success, and employability. It has two operational arms: the Student Services Directorate, and the UQ Student Employability Centre. The Division also manages the University’s day-to-day relationship with UQU, and student accommodation providers, and works with UQ Health Care to ensure medical service provision for students.

In response to feedback that various and disparate services across UQ can be difficult to navigate, the Division is seeking to take an holistic approach to its own services, and subsequently assist more broadly across the University.

The Student Employability Centre is custodian of the UQ Student Employability Strategy, and co-ordinates and promotes the distinctive features of the UQ student experience including the ‘UQ Employability Award’, leadership, global mobility and undergraduate research experiences, and provides supports to enable students to translate, articulate and transfer these experiences into the workplace.

The objective of the Student Services Directorate is to provide a range of services and support functions that enhance the student experience and assist in ensuring student success. The current initiatives run by Student Services fall into a number of areas:

- Advice Teams | The focus is on enabling student success through providing general and specialist support including accommodation, disability and inclusion, general welfare and international student advice.
- Learning Development Team | The focus is on supporting student success through online, group and one to one initiatives to enhance academic and learning skills for students.
- Counselling Team | The focus is on providing an opportunity for enrolled students to access professional counselling so that they may better develop and fulfil their personal, academic and professional potential.
- Student Experience Teams | The focus is on delivering projects that help students make connections and partnerships that enhance their experience at UQ. The work of this team will provide opportunities for students to build a sense of belonging and support within UQ.

Services are delivered across the St. Lucia, Gatton and Herston campuses.

Information about the Directorate may be accessed on the Student Services web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/student-services

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available online.
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

To provide mental health and general counselling interventions for enrolled students, as well as running workshops, groups and other educational programmes. The Senior Counsellor will also develop online educational materials, and prevention and intervention activities, primarily related to mental health and wellbeing. This role may also contribute to the work of the Sexual Misconduct Support Unit in supporting members of the UQ community who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment that might be affecting their studies at UQ.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Undertake appropriate interventions to support the mental health and wellbeing of students. This may include assessments, counselling, and brief therapy, in group, individual, and online environments.
- Undertake appropriate interventions to support the mental health and wellbeing of members of the current UQ Community who have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment.
- Conduct small and large group programs, workshops or seminars on a range of personal concerns.
- Provide appropriate supervision to post-graduate psychology students undertaking field placement with the student counselling service.
- Provide professional supervision to a multi-discipline counselling team.
- Act as primary liaison with placement coordinators from post-graduate psychology programs within South East Queensland, to recruit suitable field placement students.
- Conduct mental health university community education and outreach activities.
- Provide appropriate short- to medium term evidence based assistance to students to facilitate their appropriate engagement with a program of study and/or refer students with long-term or complex needs to an appropriate service.
- Prepare, in conjunction with others, appropriate resource materials for students for delivery in a range of formats including on-line and web-enabled information.
- Liaise with University staff on matters affecting student development.
- Undertake administrative activities including record keeping, correspondence and evaluation.
- 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 the Manager, Student Counselling.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Postgraduate qualifications in psychology and extensive relevant experience.
- Commitment to the Code of Ethics of the Australian Psychological Society or a similar professional body.
- Understanding of developmental theories, psychological disorders and appropriate interventions, community education and public mental health.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in the delivery of evidence based counselling and therapy at both the individual and group level.
- A demonstrated ability to design and deliver group presentations related to student development, mental health and wellbeing.
- Familiarity in interacting with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Considerable practical experience in dealing with people negotiating transitional issues.
- Experience in both specialist and generalist counselling.
- Ability to work co-operatively and supportively as a member of a team and with autonomy as required.
- Accredited with Board-approved supervisor status from AHPRA Psychology Board of Australia and ability to train supervisees in a suitable endorsed area of practice.
- Capacity to make sound judgements, assess and manage risk and provide advice on the direction of the student counselling team.
- A commitment and capacity to maintain currency of professional knowledge as well as trends and changes in student learning.
Desirable

- Demonstrated effectiveness in providing supervision to conditionally registered and registered mental health practitioners.
- An understanding of the issues and challenges confronting students undertaking higher education studies in a leading teaching and research intensive institution.
- Experience in specialist counselling relating to sexual assault / sexual harassment.
- General knowledge of the Australian higher education sector is desirable.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For further information please contact our Australian Indigenous Employment Coordinator at: atsi_recruitment@uq.edu.au