POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Senior Research Assistant
Organisation Unit: School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences
Position Number: TBA
Type of Employment: Full Time (1FTE), Fixed Term 2 years
Classification: HEW Level 7

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 (45), QS World University Rankings (48), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (69). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index, and our Academic Ranking of World Universities result in the field of Life and Agricultural Sciences is 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 $11billion+.

UQ also has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus 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 preventive 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:

- 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 (CYSAR)
- RECOVER Injury Research Centre
- Queensland Alliance for Environmental Health Sciences (QAEHS)
- Centre for Business and Economics of Health (CBEH)
- UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health
- Southern Queensland Rural Health (SQRH)

More information about the Faculty is available at: http://habs.uq.edu.au

School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences (HMNS)

The School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences’ vision is an international leader in the study of human movement and nutrition, demonstrating excellence through innovative, creative, and dynamic teaching and research, in a vibrant, interdisciplinary, and engaging environment. The School is consistently ranked in the World’s Top 5 and holds a leadership position in its field in the Australian tertiary environment. It is highly regarded for its teaching, research and community outreach programs. The current staff profile shows 47 FTE academic staff, 11 FTE research staff and 21 professional staff. There are approximately 100 enrolled research higher degree students, and the total EFTSL of all enrolled students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels is approximately 1050.

The School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences operates through a committee structure with delegated responsibilities and regular meeting times. The School Executive Committee has as its function to provide advice to the Head of School on matters related to strategic planning and resource allocation (including overall budgeting, resource allocation for equipment & facilities, and workload profiling & duties allocations). Membership consists of the Head of School, professorial staff, School Manager and the directors of the major
School committees: Teaching & Learning Committee and Research Committee and the Engagement Committee. Other committees which meet less frequently include the Information Workplace Health and Safety Committee and Equity Committee.

The School offers four (4) undergraduate degrees: the Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Sciences (Hons), Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology (Hons), Bachelor of Health, Sport and Physical Education (Hons) and a Bachelor of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences with a “provisional pathway degree” from the Bachelor of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences to the Master of Dietetics Studies. The School also contributes into the Bachelor of Arts (Sports Studies) and the Bachelor of Health Sciences. The School offers a wide suite of postgraduate coursework programs in the areas of Clinical Exercise Physiology, Dietetics, Sports Coaching, Sports Medicine, and Sport and Exercise Psychology. Further details about the School’s teaching programs, the research interests of academic staff, and other information about the School may be accessed on the School’s web site at http://hmns.uq.edu.au

The School currently has four established research centres:

- Centre for Research on Exercise, Physical Activity and Health
- Centre for Sensorimotor Performance
- Centre for Sport and Society
- Centre for Dietetics Research.

The School encourages staff to work across research centres, to facilitate cross-fertilisation of theories and methods, and to form close affiliations with colleagues and projects within the Faculty and across the University. The School's operations include over $23 million in operating funding and $2.5 million in research grants and service income.

**Active Choices: A ‘Stepped-Down’ program to promote group-based physical activity in Australian Veterans.**

A Senior Research Assistant position is required for this funded project: Specifically, the project will:

Undertake a rapid evidence assessment (literature review) of ‘Stepped Down’ physical activity models, with a specific focus on research that has been conducted with service veterans and their dependents. Outcomes from the review will be used to inform development of resources for the *Active Choices* program;

Partner with Allied Health Service providers (e.g. accredited exercise physiologists, physiotherapists, or dieticians), across the Brisbane Metropolitan region, to implement *Active Choices* with DVA clients accessing normal care services;

Evaluate the *Active Choices* program, quantifying impact on independently-managed physical activity, mental health and wellbeing, social inclusion and identity, and service utilisation/costs;

Use qualitative research methods, and end-intervention interviews with DVA clients, to explore factors that facilitated or inhibited independent management of physical activity, and utilisation of services.
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

Duties

- Analyse information to develop and maintain a detailed work plan including key milestones, risks and issues, and budget and communication plans;

- Prepare and collate documentation for ethics submissions and approvals;

- Undertake comprehensive database searches, identifying relevant articles, and data extraction from articles, to generate data summaries;

- Design and generate the relevant intervention resources and infrastructure for project implementation and delivery;

- Manage participant recruitment and logistics, and maintain relationships with both internal and external stakeholders to effectively manage project deliverables;

- Conduct and supervise a pre-post, comparative group research study in collaboration with the research team;

- Conduct and supervise the delivery of needs assessment analyses, and the provision of behavioural support strategies, to DVA clients recruited to the Active Choices intervention;

- Conduct and supervise quantitative and qualitative measures with DVA clients and allied health service providers,

- Undertake data entry and statistical/thematic analyses and interpretation of these data, to evaluate project impact;

- Contribute to the preparation of project reports and research outputs;

- Any other duties as reasonably directed by the Chief investigator.
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 Chief Investigator, within the School of Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- A health-related degree with at least four (4) years subsequent relevant experience, or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training;
- Experience of undertaking database searches and literature reviews;
- Demonstrated project management skills, and the ability to work in broad teams with diverse expertise;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, and experience in the preparation of project planning documentation, including final reports and research outputs;
- Demonstrable computer literacy and proficiency using software such as Microsoft Office applications and specified University software programs, with the capability and willingness to learn new packages as appropriate;
- Excellent inter-personal skills including the ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders
- Excellent organisational skills, with a demonstrated ability to set goals, develop priorities, meet timelines, and to manage multiple and diverse tasks effectively;
- Proven ability to contribute effectively to a team, displaying initiative and motivation to achieve specified goals, and flexibility with changing priorities and tight deadlines, as part of a collegial support effort;
- Must be self-directed and motivated, with excellent time management skills.

Desirable

- Demonstrated skills and experience of conducting health behaviour intervention research;
- Experience of working in the allied health sector, and managing and/or delivering services to clients.

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.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

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