POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Developmental Psychology
Organisation Unit: School of Psychology
Position Number: 3044195
Type of Employment: Full time, fixed term for two years
Classification: Research Academic 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 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 $11 billion+ (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.

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 Psychology

The School of Psychology is one of the most prestigious schools of psychology in Australia, and its strong reputation is built on excellence in both research and teaching. The School has thriving and dynamic research profiles in almost all areas of psychology, and is able to attract visitors from overseas and other institutions in Australia. It possesses good links, often through cross-appointed staff, with other schools in the University, thus creating opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborative research.

The School’s strengths are reflected in its research centres, which span the major areas of the discipline, including experimental, social, developmental, clinical and organisational psychology. Some 150 students are presently enrolled in the School’s PhD program and, while their areas of research are often linked to these centres, their topics cover the full spectrum of the discipline.

Information about the School may be accessed on the School web site at www.psy.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](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 role of Postdoctoral Research Fellow is to collaborate in research with the Head of School, Professor Virginia Slaughter. This position will be filled by a promising early career scholar (no more than 3 years post-PhD) who will apply for an external fellowship before the end of the 2-year contract. The role is expected to develop research projects relating to Professor Slaughter’s ongoing research interests in the area of theory-of-mind development and social functioning in typically-developing children and those on the Autism Spectrum.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Conduct high quality research on topics related to social-cognitive development in typical children and those on the Autism Spectrum.
- Conduct literature reviews.
- Collaborate in research design.
- Manage ethics applications and approvals.
- Recruit and test participants in the Early Cognitive Development Centre, a dedicated developmental psychology research facility within the School of Psychology.
- Liaise with families and collect data in naturalistic home environments.
- Code and analyse data.
- Draft reports for publication.
- Assist in preparing collaborative funding applications.
- Apply for independent external fellowship funding (e.g. Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award).
- Contribute to supervision and training of Honours and HDR students undertaking studies in related research fields, as required.

Service and Engagement

- Undertake administrative tasks related to the management and coordination of research projects.
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 Professor Virginia Slaughter, Head of School.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- A PhD (or PhD nearing completion) in developmental psychology (no more than three years post PhD).
- Demonstrated proficiency carrying out literature reviews within academic databases.
- A developing track record of research publications in national and international journals.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively test young children in experimental settings.
- Experience working with children who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Strong organisational skills, including the ability to prioritise a range of tasks and meet deadlines.
- Commitment to research participant confidentiality and research ethics.
- An ability to work both independently and collaboratively.

Desirable

- Sound understanding of the research literature on theory-of-mind development.
- Sound understanding of the research literature on development of executive functioning.
**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.

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.