POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Social Science
Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Fixed-term full time for 3 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 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 **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.

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 attracts 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, in global university rankings and is ranked 89th in the Times Higher Education subject rankings for Arts and Humanities, 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 Social Science is located in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science and is one of the leading social science schools in Australia. It is known internationally for its strong research focus and for producing undergraduate and postgraduate students with the skills and confidence to move through the world as curious, critical and engaged global citizens who secure work in their chosen careers. The School teaches in the disciplines of anthropology, archaeology, criminology and sociology, as well as in interdisciplinary degree programs in criminology and criminal justice, development practice, museum studies, social science and cyber-security. The lecturing staff bring to the classroom enthusiasm for their disciplines, together with their considerable research expertise. This combination ensures that the latest ideas and insights of scholarly research and practice are immediately available to students, providing a refreshingly creative environment for interaction and learning.

With over 45 academic staff, 11 professional staff and 100 research higher degree students, the School provides an atmosphere of encouragement and support for research activity and intellectual growth of its members. All academic staff are actively engaged in knowledge generation to address societal challenges in five research cluster areas: justice and society; inequality and social change; digital futures; people and places; and culture and heritage. The School performs at the very highest levels in terms of attracting and retaining world-class scholars and research fellows at all levels of appointment. The school has close working links to University-wide research centres and institutes, including the Institute for Social Science Research and the Centre for Policy Futures, and accommodates researchers working within two ARC Centres of Excellence: the Life Course Centre and the Centre for Automated Decision-Making and Society.

Further information and details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s website at http://www.social-science.uq.edu.au/.

Information for Prospective Staff

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

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of the position is to work alongside Professor Lynda Cheshire, the Head of School of Social Science, to progress a program of research on the sociology of housing, neighbourhoods and community. The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will contribute to current research projects via assistance with data collection, analysis and co-authored publications. These projects include an ARC-funded study of the experiences of people living on social housing waiting lists; a program of research on neighbouring and ‘un-neighbourliness; and a developing project on the production of evictions in the low-income private rental sector. The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will also be encouraged to initiate
new research opportunities, publications and grant applications to support the program of work, under the guidance of Professor Cheshire, as well as develop his or her own independent program of research, with mentoring and support provided by Professor Cheshire and other senior academic members of staff. Some teaching and service will be required, as directed, which will amount to 20 percent of the overall workload. This is an excellent opportunity for an early career academic to develop a strong track record of research performance by working alongside a senior academic while also establishing a successful independent career of his or her own.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Work with the Head of School, Professor Lynda Cheshire, to progress current research projects.
- In conjunction with the Head of School, develop a coherent research program and participate in applications for external research funding support.
- Publish in high quality outlets in collaboration with the Head of School, in a manner consistent with disciplinary practice.
- Liaise with relevant stakeholders and end-users of research, and promote research findings to a wider audience.
- Connect up with wider University and external research networks to develop and extend research collaborations and opportunities.
- Develop an independent program of research, and an emerging profile in research.

Teaching and Learning

- Contribute towards the coordination and delivery of undergraduate teaching, as directed by the Head of School and in line with current School policy. This may include coordinating a designated course or teaching into several courses according to the Postdoctoral Research Fellow’s research and teaching strengths.
- Contribute to the effective supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate coursework, Honours and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students in the School of Social Science

Service and Engagement

- Engage with the collegial life and activities of the School, Faculty and University.
- Perform a range of internal and external administrative functions as appropriate.

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, Professor Lynda Cheshire.

SELECTION CRITERIA

• Completion of a PhD within the past three years in the discipline of sociology or related field.
• Demonstrated expert knowledge in one or more of the following areas: housing and home; social housing and alternative models of housing delivery; neighbouring and un-neighbourliness; neighbourhood change (urban consolidation, gentrification, housing renewal etc.); and spatial concentrations of disadvantage.
• High level qualitative research skills.
• Demonstrated high-level academic writing skills, including a capacity to publish in high-quality research outlets.
• Ability to work independently and as part of a team, with a high level of motivation.
• An ability to undertake undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching in sociology.

Desirable

• Familiarity with quantitative research tools and techniques, including survey design, census data and basic statistical analyses.
• Experience in liaising and collaborating with external partners to develop cooperative research initiatives.

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.

Vaccinations and Immunisation

It is a condition of employment for this role that if you are required now or in the future, to work or interact in Queensland Health clinical facility; or in an equivalent clinical health
facility; or health care role; or will be required to perform work tasks that put you at risk of exposure to vaccine-preventable disease you are required to be immunised against, and remain immunised against, certain vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) in accordance with the University’s Vaccinations and Immunisation Guidelines (PPL 2.60.08). The employee is required to provide evidence of immunisation against VPDs.

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 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.