POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: School of Education
Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Part time (60%), fixed term
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.

More information about the Faculty can be accessed at http://www.hass.uq.edu.au/
UQ is a leader in education, ranked 19th in the world in the 2019 QS World University Rankings by Subject. The School of Education is consistently ranked as one of Australia’s leading research and teaching institutions in the field of education. It is ranked as above world standard in the most recent ERA, and received the ranking of “high” in all three categories in its Engagement and Impact Assessment for 2018-2019. It has a strong commitment to addressing issues of education and equity in the context of rapid social, economic and cultural change.

The School’s education programs and research agendas have focused on driving state and national educational innovation and reform. The School currently offers the following teacher preparation programs: one four-year Bachelor of Education (Primary Years), a range of Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Dual Degrees, a Master of Teaching (Primary) and a Master of Teaching (Secondary). It also offers professional development opportunities via its suite of postgraduate coursework programs and has a vibrant postgraduate research community.

The School’s staff are internationally cited and recognised for outstanding work in such fields as sociology and policy studies in education, educational psychology and learning sciences, inclusive education, literacy and numeracy, pedagogy and school reform and leadership. Further information and details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s web site.

Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Genomic Health Futures Mission Project Grant

“We need to talk”: Social and ethical dialogue around genomics and disability is a major MRFF project grant in relation to the ethical, legal, and social issues related to genomics in health care. This MRFF funded project aims to a) articulate the ethical, social and legal issues of genomics for people with disabilities and their families; and, b) implement a collaborative, co-design model to inform the design and conduct of human genetic research as well as genomics policy, research, education and practices.

This research project will provide a voice for people with disabilities and their families with a key focus on the impact of genomics on the identity of people with disabilities and their presence in society. An understanding of the impact of genomics on the lives of people with disabilities is similarly beneficial for scientists, clinicians and policy makers who will be included in this project. A shared understanding and dialogue to bring together these critical perspectives of the ethical, social and legal aspects of genomics is a critical activity of this project.

Drawing on a mixed-methods (qualitative and quantitative) participatory design, people with lived experience of disability are integral to all aspects of the conduct, analysis and products of the project. Eliciting the opinions of people with lived experience of a range of impairments that result in disabilities is pivotal for the comparative exploration of diverse experiences. Utilising a co-design approach, the multiple stakeholders (people with disabilities and their families, genomics researchers, clinicians, educators and other end-users of genomics research) will contribute to the research and the project outcomes.

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

To work closely with the project team, the Project Advisory Group, and diverse stakeholders contributing to collaborative research and project outcomes.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research
- Supporting the implementation of the research project, including utilising a collaborative and co-design approach.
- Conducting qualitative and quantitative research including large scale surveys, Delphi method exercises, interviews.
- Conducting systematic literature searches and reviews, prepare human ethics submissions, and publish scholarly papers in high quality outlets.
- Facilitating cross stakeholder discussion through the development of issues/discussion papers.
- Engaging in theory-building, synthesise and analyse qualitative and quantitative data using appropriate methods.
- Working in close collaboration with diverse stakeholders, allowing all involved to see how insights translate into benefits for individuals, health professionals and research teams.
- Working with colleagues and postgraduates across a wide range of disciplines and prepare research publications for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Developing excellent written and oral presentations of research outcomes, including project reports and the publication of academic papers in high quality national and international journals.
- Formulating and managing project budgets and work plans.
- Contributing to supervision at honours and postgraduate level and participate in events to attract postgraduate students.

Service and Engagement
- Attending domestic meetings relating to the research project, as well as organising and attending national meetings and roundtable discussions.
- Fostering and managing relations with partner organisations, government departments, professional and other bodies and the wider community, in conjunction with your supervisor.
- Working with key stakeholders to develop and distribute nationally agreed best practice standards, guidelines, tools and resources.
- Contributing to the school and university through academic service responsibilities.
- Any other duties as 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 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 and project lead, Professor Karen Nankervis.
**SELECTION CRITERIA**

- A PhD or PhD submitted for examination in the area of human or allied health services related to disability, or other educational backgrounds.
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a research team and experience in conducting and analysing both qualitative and quantitative research, including advanced analytical techniques.
- Evidence of research activity and publications in high quality journals, relative to opportunity.
- Enthusiastic, self-motivated and a strong ethic of project delivery and reporting to specification.
- Demonstrated ability to establish effective relationships and to represent and promote the research area at a university and wider community level, including community based individuals and groups, industry, government and professional bodies.
- Excellent written and verbal communication, interpersonal skills, and the ability to work collaboratively with colleagues from a diverse background.

**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 for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.*

*People with lived experience of disability are encouraged to apply.*

*Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to recruitment@uq.edu.au.*