POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Fellow
Organization Unit: School of Public Health
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term for 12 months
Classification: Research Academic Level B

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 (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (48), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (69). 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 52,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 15,400 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 250,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a $1.75 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+ (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 Medicine**

The University of Queensland’s Faculty of Medicine is an internationally recognised provider of world-class education and research. The research-intensive Faculty has a gross budget of almost $300 million, employs approximately 1000 continuing and fixed-term staff (headcount), has a community of more than 4000 non-salaried academic appointees and around 3200 students (headcount).

The Faculty of Medicine offers Australia’s largest medical degree program for graduates and school-leavers. Undergraduate and postgraduate programs are available in the disciplines of Medicine, Health Sciences, E-Health, Mental Health, Biomedical Sciences and Public Health.

The Faculty possesses enormous strengths spanning research, teaching, industry engagement and clinical practice in disciplines ranging from the basic sciences, biomedical research and development, to clinical trials and public health. Research projects within the Faculty have already led to discoveries with far-reaching social and economic impacts, including the revolutionary Gardasil (TM) vaccine for cervical cancer (Professor Ian Frazer) and a drug discovery EMA401 (Professor Maree Smith), a first-in-class oral treatment for chronic pain which through Spinifex Pharmaceuticals led to Australia’s largest biotechnology commercialisation deal. Faculty staff include three highly cited authors, one Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), three Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science (FAA) and 12 Fellows of the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). The Faculty is a core member of Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners, the Brisbane-wide academic health science system.

Educational offerings in biomedical sciences, medicine and public health are informed and supported by research activity across a range of fundamental and clinical areas of importance including recognised strengths in cancer, skin diseases, brain and mental health, maternal and child health and genomics. Cutting-edge facilities such as the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR), our laboratories in the Translational Research Institute (TRI) and the new Centre for Children’s Health Research (CCHR) enable outstanding research outcomes and sharpen our understanding of cancer, autoimmunity, mental disorders, infectious diseases and neurological disease. Further details are available at [www.medicine.uq.edu.au](http://www.medicine.uq.edu.au).

**The School of Public Health**

The University of Queensland was, in 1936, the first university in the English-speaking world to establish a Department of Social Medicine. This evolved in the 1950’s to the Department of Preventative and Social Medicine and the School was formally established in 2001 to improve health outcomes through learning, discovery and engagement. The School of Public Health has recently been ranked as the top Public Health school in Australasia in the US News Global university rankings. We are a global leader in improving the health of populations in a changing and inequitable world.
The School’s strategy is centered on academic performance and a commitment to excellence in teaching. We offer programs and courses in all major fields of population and public health to almost 1000 postgraduate and undergraduate students. Our MPH is the only accredited program in the Australasia and S.E. Asia region (APHEA and ASPHER) and one of the few to offer a dual MD/MPH degree. More than 100 research higher degree (PhD and MPhil) students actively contribute to the School’s vibrant research culture while receiving comprehensive preparation for academic careers or leadership roles in public health.

Our research and engagement strategy is focused on making a real impact on some of the world’s most pressing health challenges. Our major research and engagement themes are: health promotion; climate change and environmental health; mental health; blood borne viruses; women’s health; and, health systems.

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

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 this position is to undertake high-level research into adolescent mental disorder prevalence, risk factors and service utilisation in low- and middle income countries. The position has been specifically created to assist in the planning, management, and reporting for nationally-representative population surveys in three countries – Kenya, Indonesia, and Vietnam. The successful applicant will be required to liaise with and provide technical support to the in-country partner organisation, lead components of the data collection and analysis, draft reports, and assist in the preparation and delivery of the project outcomes under the Chief Investigator and Project Manager.

The appointee will report directly to the Head of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Epidemiology and Services (CAPES) at the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) located in Wacol, QLD. Dr Erskine is Chief Investigator and overall Project Manager for the surveys being conducted in Kenya, Indonesia, and Vietnam. This role will also involve work on other projects related to child and adolescent psychiatric epidemiology and services under the direction of the NHMRC Early Career Fellow. The role is based at the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) located in Wacol, QLD. Ability to travel interstate and internationally when requested, given a reasonable degree of flexibility and timing, is also required.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research:

- Provide high-level technical support to the management of research projects, including associated budgets, ethics applications, and legal contracts in the area of child and adolescent mental health.
- Actively seek, develop, and maintain relationships with government, professional associations, and relevant research organisations.
- Manage communication and negotiation with local, national, and international partners, as well as scientific peers, study participants, and any media engagement.
• Analyse quantitative and qualitative data.
• Disseminate research findings in peer-reviewed journals, reports for funding bodies, and briefing papers for various internal and external stakeholders.
• Give presentations at domestic and international conferences to further disseminate research findings and promote research collaborations.
• Prepare grant applications for submission to research organisations, such as the National Health and Medical Research Council, universities (including The University of Queensland), and governments (including Queensland Health).
• Engage in independent and/or team research and have an established record of publication or exhibition in high-quality outlets. Including work on existing projects on child and adolescent psychiatric epidemiology, led by the NHMRC Early Career Fellow, and dissemination of outputs in peer-reviewed journals as well as national and international conferences.
• Contribute to the effective supervision of Honours and Higher Degree by Research students.

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 directly to NHMRC Early Career Fellow, School of Public Health.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- A research higher degree (PhD) in the field of psychology, epidemiology, public health, biostatistics, or other relevant area.
- Demonstrated post-doctoral level research skills, knowledge, and expertise in the field of mental health, including a clear understanding of research processes and ethics requirements.
- Demonstrated skills in all aspects of the research process from proposing hypotheses to publication in peer-reviewed journals to dissemination of results at local, national, and global levels.
- Demonstrated ability to problem solve and exercise independent professional judgement in planning the strategic direction of research projects.
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to prioritise activities, and to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Knowledge of research codes of practice and ability to apply ethical guidelines in research behaviour.
- Ability to travel interstate and internationally when requested, given a reasonable degree of flexibility and timing.
- Ability to communicate effectively with scientific peers, stakeholders, study participants, and the media.
- Ability to liaise with internal and external stakeholders.

Desirable

- Experience in project management
- In-depth knowledge of psychiatric epidemiology with a specific focus on children and adolescents.
- Experience working and collaborating with organisations and populations in low- and middle-income countries.
- Experience in survey planning, administration, management, and evaluation.
- Demonstrated skill in quantitative or qualitative statistical processes and data analysis packages (e.g. R, STATA, SPSS, etc.).
- A record of research publication in peer-reviewed journals as lead author or senior author.
- Experience in writing research grant applications or ethics applications.
- Experience with human resource and finance procedures and systems at the University of Queensland.

Qualification Verification

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

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

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to Dr Holly Erskine at h.erskine@uq.edu.au

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.