

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Program B: Women’s health service use across life
Organisation Unit:	School of Public Health
Position Number:	NEW
Type of Employment:	Full Time, Fixed Term 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 (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.

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.

Centre of Research Excellence on Women and Non-communicable Disease: Prevention and Detection (CRE WaND)

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) – such as cardiovascular disease, cancers, and respiratory conditions – are now leading causes of mortality and morbidity among women. Many of the established risk factors for NCDs are shared with poor reproductive outcomes and emerging evidence also points to the impact of reproductive factors, such as pregnancy complications, on NCD risk. CRE WaND, funded by the NHMRC, examines the current risks of NCDs across women's life, evaluate women's current related use of health services, and to also model future health service use, in order to develop targeted strategies and guidelines for radical improvements in prevention and detection of NCDs among women.

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

This position is responsible for collaborating with the CRE WaND investigators to conduct a comprehensive assessment of Australian women's use of health services across life stages, identifying the key factors influencing distinct patterns of health service use, and assessing the comparative impact of NCDs on health service use.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Conducting research on:
 - How women in Australia use health services across life, in terms of the timing, duration and nature of services accessed; to what extent these patterns vary by sociodemographic factors (e.g., area of residence) and how this compares with men's use of health services

- How patterns of health service use vary before and after diagnosis of each NCD, including the impact of subsequent additional NCDs and multi-morbidity; and how use of pharmaceuticals and hospitalisation changes with increasing NCD burden
 - Differences in the patterns of health service use across life, based on the characteristics of key groups of women identified as at most risk of one or more NCDs
- Presenting research findings at national and international conferences, seminars and workshops and publishing research papers in high impact journals
 - Working collaboratively with other team members to translate research findings to a range of different audiences
 - Assisting with the supervision of research higher degree students working on CRE WaND projects.
 - Participating in applications for external research funding support
 - Conducting other research on women's health as requested by the CRE WaND Investigators
 - Implementing a personal and professional development plan.
 - Planning and allocating time and resources to mutually agreed priorities.
 - Maintaining high ethical and professional standards.
 - Participating in the intellectual life of the School of Public Health at UQ.

Service and Engagement

- Fostering CRE WaND relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Contributing to the on-line community presence of CRE WaND.

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 Professor of Biostatistics.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD in biostatistics, epidemiology or related fields such as medicine, health sciences, biomedical science, pharmacy, health economics.
- Demonstrated ability to conduct statistical analysis of complex longitudinal datasets and linked administrative data.
- Demonstrated understanding of the Australian health care system.
- Capacity to conduct productive research on women's health, evidenced by published papers in leading discipline journals, and conference participation.
- High level interpersonal and communication skills including the ability to establish cooperative working relationships with a wide range of individuals.
- Ability to use judgment, act independently and take initiative with minimal direction, yet work effectively as part of a team.

Desirable

- Experience with a range of data science concepts and methods.
- Experience in liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop co-operative research initiatives.

Applicants must have valid Australian work rights to apply for this role. Visa sponsorship is not available for this position.

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.