Position Description

Research Optometrist

Position Number: 00086195
Position Title: Research Optometrist
Date Written: September 2020

Faculty / Division: Faculty of Science
School / Unit: School of Optometry and Vision Science
Position Level: Level 6

ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

UNSW is currently implementing a ten-year strategy to 2025 and our ambition for the next decade is nothing less than to establish UNSW as Australia’s global university. We aspire to this in the belief that a great university, which is a global leader in discovery, innovation, impact, education and thought leadership, can make an enormous difference to the lives of people in Australia and around the world.

Following extensive consultation in 2015, we identified three strategic priority areas. Firstly, a drive for academic excellence in research and education. Universities are often classified as ‘research intensive’ or ‘teaching intensive’. UNSW is proud to be an exemplar of both. We are amongst a limited group of universities worldwide capable of delivering research excellence alongside the highest quality education on a large scale. Secondly, a passion for social engagement, which improves lives through advancing equality, diversity, open debate and economic progress. Thirdly, a commitment to achieving global impact through sharing our capability in research and education in the highest quality partnerships with institutions in both developed and emerging societies. We regard the interplay of academic excellence, social engagement and global impact as the hallmarks of a great forward-looking 21st century university.

To achieve this ambition, we are attracting the very best academic and professional staff to play leadership roles in our organisation.

VALUES IN ACTION: OUR UNSW BEHAVIOURS

UNSW recognises the role of employees in driving a high-performance culture. The behavioural expectations for UNSW are below.

- Demonstrates Excellence: Delivers high performance and demonstrates service excellence.
- Drives Innovation: Thinks creatively and develops new ways of working. Initiates and embraces change.
- Builds Collaboration: Works effectively within and across teams. Builds relationships with internal and external stakeholders to deliver on outcomes.
- Embraces Diversity: Values individual differences and contributions of all people and promotes inclusion.
- Displays Respect: Treats others with dignity and empathy. Communicates with integrity and openness.
OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT AREA AND POSITION SUMMARY

The School of Optometry and Vision Science is one of the largest and most prestigious optometry schools in Australia/Asia. It offers a three-year Bachelor of Vision Science undergraduate program, which can be taken as a standalone degree with the option of an honours year or lead to a two-year Master of Clinical Optometry at the postgraduate level. The Master of Clinical Optometry qualifies graduates to practice as an Optometrist in Australia, New Zealand and many Asian countries.

With world-class research facilities and staff with international reputations, the School offers the most comprehensive postgraduate degrees in Australia, including higher degree research; PhD, MSc and a Doctorate in Clinical Research in Optometry. In addition, coursework degrees Master of Optometry, and Graduate Certificates in Ocular Therapeutics and Myopia Management are offered.

Research in the School of Optometry and Vision Science encompasses a diverse range of topics and disciplines, including basic, applied and clinical research in the science of vision. The School’s multidisciplinary approach to research is one of its key strengths.

The School is co-located on the UNSW Sydney campus with the Brien Holden Vision Institute and the Centre for Eye Health.

The School incorporates the UNSW Optometry Clinic which is open to the public and utilises state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment that provides the best in patient eye health management. Students see patients from a wide variety of ages from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds. The UNSW Optometry Clinic operates several internal clinics that, in conjunction with external placements, offer students a broad experience in many aspects of optometric and eye care including paediatrics and myopia progression control.

For further information about the School, please visit www.optometry.unsw.edu.au

The School of Optometry and Vision Science conducts a number of Industry sponsored clinical trials in various specialty fields including contact lenses, myopia control and dry eye. The role of the Research Optometrist reports to Senior Lecturer Dr Alex Hui, and has no direct reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

• Work closely with the Project Leaders and team, including the Eye Research Group, to achieve the aims of the industry-funded clinical trials by:
  o Conducting clinical eye examinations
  o Collecting, entering and verifying study-specific data
  o Actively recruiting and following up on participants
  o Assessing contact lens fits and measurement of refractive error and ocular biometry
  o Managing study product dispensing and inventory

• Support the Project Leaders in management of the overall clinical trials, including playing a collaborative role in relation to any other staff that may be employed on the project.

• Assist in the preparation of regular reports on clinical trial progress as required for the industry sponsors.

• Assist in the preparation of research papers for publication in scientific journals, and present outcomes of the clinical trial at scientific conferences in Australia and overseas, as agreed with the Project Leaders.

• Actively assist the Project Leaders in developing new research linkages and plans for future research projects in collaboration with industry, to ensure continuity of funding and support beyond the current industry-based funding.
• Provide undergraduate student clinical supervision and tutorials, with the occasional delivery of undergraduate and postgraduate lectures as required.
• Cooperate with staff and students to ensure the effective usage of clinical and laboratory facilities.
• Cooperate with all health and safety policies and procedures of the university and take all reasonable care to ensure that your actions or omissions do not impact on the health and safety of yourself or others.

SELECTION CRITERIA
• PhD qualification, preferably in optometry, contact lenses or myopia discipline.
• Registered as an optometrist in Australia, or capacity for registration, with professional clinical experience in optometry or equivalent.
• Demonstrated ability to perform research and conduct clinical eye examinations.
• Demonstrated experience in recruiting participants to conduct clinical eye examinations.
• Demonstrated experience in clinical optometric research and knowledge of good clinical practice.
• Demonstrated experience in soft contact lens fitting in the paediatric population.
• Demonstrated experience with the use of advanced instrumentation such as those used to measure and model the eye’s responses to contact lens wear.
• Demonstrated excellence in administration including diligent record keeping.
• Demonstrated ability to work in a team, collaborate across disciplines and build effective relationships.
• Strong interpersonal skills with demonstrated ability to communicate and interact with a diverse range of stakeholders and students.
• Strong organisational skills including the ability to prioritise a range of tasks and meet deadlines.
• Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

It is not the intention of the position description to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position but to highlight the most important aspects of the position. The aspects mentioned above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.