

Position Description

Research Fellow (Biostatistics/Data Science)

*Position Number: 00074350
Position Title: Research Fellow (Biostatistics)
Date Written: May 2019*

*Faculty / Division: UNSW Medicine
School / Unit: NDARC
Position Level: Level A/B*

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

UNSW Medicine is a national leader in learning, teaching and research, with close affiliations to a number of Australia's finest hospitals, research institutes and health care organisations. With a strong presence at UNSW Kensington campus, the faculty have staff and students in teaching hospitals in Sydney as well as regional and rural areas of NSW including Albury/Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie.

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) was established at the University of New South Wales by the Commonwealth Government in 1986 to extend the knowledge base required for effective treatment of individuals with alcohol and other drug related problems and to enhance the overall research capacity in the drug and alcohol field. The Centre is highly regarded, both nationally and internationally, for its contribution to drug and alcohol research.

The Research Fellow (Biostatistics/Data Science) will work across a number of ongoing epidemiological forming part of the Drug Trends program. The Drug Trends program is entering an exciting new phase, adopting novel methods to respond to new challenges in monitoring substance use and innovative communication strategies to reach national and international audiences. The position will have the opportunity to work with and report on various data sources, including large routinely-collected data collections (e.g., drug-related hospitalisations and mortality), primary data collected through interviews with people who use drugs, and online drug marketplace data. The Research Fellow will help to bring innovation and improvements to monitoring of alcohol/drug use and harms in Australia into the future.

The role of Research Fellow reports to the study Chief Investigator and will have one direct report.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

Level A:

- Conduct advanced statistical analyses of quantitative research data, including time-series data.
- Undertake high-quality data management, including merging large data sets, maintaining data dictionaries, and ensuring data integrity.
- Contribute to research outputs, including using data visualisation techniques to best display results.
- Contribute to new research grant applications.
- Perform other duties as requested by your supervisor.
- 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.

Level B (in addition to the above):

- Independently plan and execute analyses in accordance with study aims.
- Lead the preparation of conference abstracts and publications for submission to peer-reviewed journals.
- Lead or contribute to grant applications for new projects or extensions to the current project.
- Contribute to HDR supervision.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Level A:

- Masters or recent PhD in statistics, biostatistics, data science or other quantitative discipline. Relevant applied knowledge and experience in a health/medical field would be advantageous.
- Experience in advanced quantitative analyses and at least two year's experience of using appropriate statistical packages for complex data sets (e.g., SAS, STATA, or R). Experience in using Python, R or packages for data mining, machine learning, and data visualisation would be advantageous.
- Experience in cleaning, merging, and managing large data sets, including implementing various strategies to maximise data integrity.
- Applied knowledge and experience in a health/medical field.
- Demonstrated high level written and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a collaborative research team.
- Knowledge of UNSW health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

Level B (in addition to above)

- PhD in statistics, biostatistics, data science, or other quantitative discipline, with three or more years of relevant experience.
- Strong research output, as evidenced by peer-reviewed journals and publications and success in applying and/or attracting competitive research funding.
- Demonstrated capacity to carry out independent research as indicated by a proven track record of writing manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals

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.