Position Description

Research Associate/Senior Research Associate

Position Number: XXXXXX
Position Title: Research Associate/Senior Research Associate
Date Written: May 2019

Faculty / Division: UNSW Law
School / Unit: Indigenous Law Centre
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.

Please refer to the UNSW Behavioural Indicators for the expectations of your career level (level A).
OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT AREA AND POSITION SUMMARY

Ranked 14th in the world, UNSW Law is Australia’s leader in progressive and rigorous legal education and research. Inspired by principles of justice, UNSW Law through its teaching, research and community outreach, promotes a holistic understanding of law and its role in society.

UNSW Law includes more than 90 academics, many of whom are leaders in their areas of research interest. Our research is organised around a range of centres and disciplinary clusters. The Faculty’s research ranges from traditional doctrinal study to interdisciplinary, empirical and theoretical work. A common theme is the engagement with law outside the University, through policy and law reform and collaboration with practitioners of all kinds. UNSW Law is supported by 60 professional and technical staff who provide management and support in teaching, research, finance and student administration.

The Indigenous Law Centre (ILC), UNSW Law was established in 1981. It is a not-for-profit research centre, and its researchers’ high quality work has been important to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The ILC produces the Indigenous Law Bulletin and the Australian Indigenous Law Review—the only two journals dedicated specifically to Indigenous legal issues in Australia. Most recently, UNSW and the ILC played a key role in the research and scholarship and advocacy for reform that has led to the call for Makarrata in the Uluru Statement from the Heart through the structural reforms of Voice, Treaty and Truth. These reforms require significant foundational research to inform their establishment and operation. UNSW and the ILC have an ongoing commitment to lead research and policy development and advocacy that will secure the success of these reforms. The ILC also has a key role to play in operationalising the commitments in UNSW’s Indigenous Strategy, which contains a firm commitment of the University to the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars who have a sense of responsibility to give back to First Nations communities.

The Research Associate/Senior Research Associate will provide high level research and administrative support, undertake independent research and writing to ensure that the various strands of the project ‘Recognition after Uluru: what next for First Nations’ are carried out effectively and research objectives are met in a timely way.

The role of Research Associate/Senior Research Associate reports to the Chief Investigators (Professor Davis and Professor Williams), and has no direct reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Level A

- Support and develop research initiatives in relation to public law and Indigenous legal issues as part of the project ‘Recognition after Uluru: what next for First Nations’
- Conduct literature reviews and analysis and contribute to high quality academic and legal profession publications
- Prepare draft applications for submission to external research grant schemes
- Ensure project deadlines and milestones are identified and met
- Prepare reports, presentations, posters and manuscripts for an expert audience and peer review
- Maintain sound governance framework for research activities and ensure appropriate ethics approval, reporting and documentation of research outcomes
- Dissemination of research findings in newsletters, referred academic publications, reports, submissions and conference papers
- Teaching may be required in the area of the research project
- Undertake administrative duties associated with the research as required, including assisting in reporting to UNSW and attend meetings associated with the research
• Develop effective working relationships with all relevant academic and support areas of the Faculty and University

• 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)

• Conduct research in the area of public law and Indigenous legal issues relating to the project ‘Recognition after Uluru: what next for First Nations’
• Prepare manuscripts, abstracts and grant applications
• Supervision of honours theses and HDR students
• Design and develop innovative concepts and ideas for further research
• Collaborate in developing a stream of research at the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW Law and building capacity in relation to law and policy
• Disseminate research results through writing of high-quality articles and reports for well-regarded journals and progress reporting to other researchers and industry partners
• Participate in the definition of research directions and actively contribute to the coordination of research and research outputs to meet project milestones
• Working with industry partners, seek and apply for external funding opportunities to grow and enhance research projects

SELECTION CRITERIA

• A PhD in law or near completed
• Interest or experience in Indigenous peoples and the law and/or First Nations law reform
• Demonstrated ability to undertake independent research on the specific project
• Demonstrated ability to write reports, tenders and grant applications
• Strong organisational skills including the capacity to coordinate the day to day aspects of the research project and the ability to meet deadlines
• Proven demonstrated project management skills and experience
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to write for both legal and non-legal audiences
• Demonstrated capacity to collaborate with academics, legal practitioners and others and build and maintain effective relationships.
• Demonstrated ability to work independently as well as work effectively as a member of a team.
• Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

Level B (in addition to the above)

• High level qualitative research and demonstrated excellence in publishing in leading journals relevant to Indigenous Law
• Strong track record of high-quality publications and conference presentations
• Ability to maintain a sound governance framework for research activities and ensure appropriate ethics approval, reporting and documentation of research outcomes

PRE EMPLOYMENT CHECKS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

• Verification of Qualifications

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.