Position Description

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

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.

Delivers high performance and demonstrates service excellence.

Thinks creatively and develops new ways of working. Initiates and embraces change.

Works effectively within and across teams. Builds relationships with internal and external stakeholders to deliver on outcomes.

Values individual differences and contributions of all people and promotes inclusion.

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 Postdoctoral Research Fellow is based within the Public Health Group at the School of Optometry and Vision Science and will be responsible for conducting research studies under the mentorship of the Head of School and other senior academics.

The role of Postdoctoral Research Fellow reports to Head of School, School of Optometry and Vision Science and has no direct reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

Level A:

- Conduct research into the consequences of low vision in the broad areas of injuries (mostly falls) and mental health (anxiety and depression).
- Assist with the development of the Public Health research program at the School of Optometry and Vision Science.
- Ensure adherence with the Study Protocol, compliance with Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) approvals, and all reporting requirements to HREC, Stakeholder and Regulatory authorities.
- Collect study-specific data and maintain records.
- Manage research results including data entry, analysis and preparation of results for presentation at meetings.
- Disseminate research results through writing of scientific papers for international journals and progress reports for industry partners.
• Assist in the recruitment and follow-up of study participants and other administrative duties for Public Health research projects.

• Efficiently manage advertising, screening, participant enrolments and scheduling of participants’ visits to ensure study milestones and timelines are met.

• Contribute to the development of new research projects through funding applications and initiation of collaborations within the School.

• Assist with the preparation of Human Research Ethics applications and associated documentation to meet submission deadlines.

• Supervise undergraduate and postgraduate students as required.

• Conduct tutorial and classes as required.

• Complete research administration tasks, including accountability of study investigational products and completion of Good Clinical Practice and other training requirements set by the Head of School.

• 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**

**Level A:**

• A PhD or equivalent qualification in Public Health.

• Demonstrated professional experience in the eye health sector.

• Demonstrated experience in research project as evidenced by conference presentations and publications including high-quality publications and conference presentations relative to opportunity.

• Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated initiative and problem-solving skills.

• Demonstrated ability to work effectively and efficiently in a team and contribute to overall project objectives.

• Demonstrated ability to supervise honours students and interest in higher degree research student supervision.

• Demonstrated excellence in administration with attention to detail and diligent record keeping.

• Proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office programs, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

• Proficiency in statistical software programs.

• 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.*