



Position Description

Research Associate/ Research Fellow

Position Number: 00081593
Position Title: Research Associate/Research Fellow
Date Written: January 2020

Faculty / Division: Medicine
School / Unit: Centre for Big Data Research in Health (CBDRH)
Position Level: Level A/Level 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.



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

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 Centre for Big Data Research in Health (CBDRH) is a research centre within the Faculty of Medicine and aims to improve the health of the population through research using large-scale electronic data that integrates information about biology, clinical care, health services and the social and physical environments. CBDRH is in a rapid growth phase at present. There are currently around 30 academic staff, 12 professional staff members and 16HDR students.

The functions of CBDRH are to: (i) foster and develop innovation in health data science; (ii) undertake high impact, high-quality and multi-disciplinary health and medical research using big data; (iii) facilitate the rapid translation of research findings into health improvements and better value in health care; (iv) build multi-disciplinary capacity in health research using big data; and (v) promote public, clinical and policy awareness of the health and societal benefits of research using big data.

The Research Associate/Research Fellow will provide support across projects within the Research Units in the Centre for Big Data Research in Health.

The role of Research Associate/Research Fellow reports to the Professor and or the Associate Professor.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

Level A

- Conduct tasks relating to research projects to the highest scientific and ethical standards, and implement best-practice research processes
- Contribute to the preparation of data management and data analysis plans
- Undertake data management and data analysis, including application of advanced statistical techniques to large, complex linked data sets and/or electronic medical records
- Contribute to the preparation of ethics applications and ongoing reporting to the relevant ethics committees
- Contribute to the drafting and preparation of scientific papers, protocols and conference abstracts
- Contribute to drafting research grant proposals and tenders for commissioned research, as required
- Present research findings at meetings, workshops and conferences
- Attend meetings associated with research projects or work of the organisational unit at departmental and/or faculty meetings and/or relevant committees

- 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)

- Critically appraise current methods and conduct systematic literature reviews
- Independently design and undertake research projects using population and linked datasets
- Identify funding opportunities and contribute to the development and preparation of funding proposals
- Supervise research and/or data analysis performed by other team members
- Assist in the supervision and mentorship of staff and students
- Independently develop strategies to ensure effective and efficient research management
- Prepare research grant proposals, tenders for commissioned research, scientific papers, protocols and conference abstracts
- Convene and attend meetings associated with research projects or work of the organisational unit at departmental and/or faculty meetings and/or relevant committees

SELECTION CRITERIA

Level A

- Degree in biostatistics, epidemiology, computer science, applied statistics or a related discipline, or undergraduate degree with relevant research experience
- Strong understanding of theory and methods relating to the design of epidemiological studies and the statistical analysis of health-related data
- Demonstrated experience in the management and analysis of large complex health datasets and the analysis of linked, longitudinal data and electronic medical records
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with proven ability to build successful working relationships with a variety of people, both internal and external
- Demonstrated ability to maintain the strictest confidentiality when dealing with sensitive data and an understanding of ethical principles relating to privacy and confidentiality
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training

Level B (in addition to the above)

- Postgraduate degree in biostatistics, epidemiology, computer science, applied statistics or a related discipline
- Excellent track record of research in a related discipline, which has resulted in peer-reviewed publications
- Highly developed data analysis skills and experience in use of several statistical packages
- Demonstrated ability to conceptualise novel research questions in areas relevant to public health, health services research, or health informatics and to develop these into research outputs
- Evidence of an increasing trajectory of research excellence and productivity

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.