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POSITION DESCRIPTION

Research Associate

Position Level	A
Faculty/Division	Science
Position Number	00204204
Original document creation	18/10/ 2024

Position Summary

The Research Associate is based in the School of Psychology at UNSW Sydney and works on an externally funded project studying brain mechanisms for how risk and aversion shape learning and decision-making. The role combines behavioural assessments of learning and decision-making with calcium imaging and spatial transcriptomics and contributes to publishing scientific papers and reports in international journals, actively participates in conferences and workshops, and collaborates closely with research partners.

The Research Associate reports to Professor Gavan McNally and has no direct reports.

Accountabilities

Specific accountabilities for this role include:

- Contribute independently and as a team member in collaborative research with a focus to enhance the quality of research outcomes in the discipline area.
- Conduct research (as per the norms of the discipline) and create scholarly output that is recognised by peers.
- Undertake specific research project/s under the guidance of a research leader and contribute to development of research activities.
- Support the dissemination of research outcomes through publication in peer reviewed journals and conference presentations.

- Undertake discipline-appropriate research activities, e.g. surveys, literature reviews, data gathering and/or recording of results using appropriate research methods.
- Participate in and/or present at conferences and/or workshops relevant to the project as required.
- Assist with the supervision of research students in the research area where required.
- Align with and actively demonstrate the [Code of Conduct and Values](#).
- 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.

Skills and Experience

- A PhD in neuroscience, psychology or related discipline, and research experience in one or more of the following:
 - calcium imaging, optogenetics, or chemogenetics
 - behavioural testing in mice or rats
 - Data analysis using MATLAB, R, or Python
- Proven commitment to proactively keeping up to date with discipline knowledge and developments.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake high quality academic research and conduct independent research with limited supervision
- Demonstrated track record of publications and conference presentations relative to opportunity.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team, collaborate across disciplines and build effective relationships.
- Evidence of highly developed interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate and interact with a diverse range of stakeholders and students.
- An understanding of and commitment to UNSW's aims, objectives and values in action, together with relevant policies and guidelines.
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

Pre-employment checks required for this position

- Verification of qualifications

About this document

This Position Description outlines the objectives, desired outcomes, key responsibilities, accountabilities, required skills, experience and desired behaviours required to successfully perform the role.

This template is not intended to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position. Characteristics of the position may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.