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## POSITION DESCRIPTION

# Research Associate / Senior Research Associate (Social Sciences)

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Position Level	A / B
Faculty/Division	Engineering
Position Number	00203124
Original document creation	14/10/2024

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### Position Summary

The **Research Associate** (Level A) / **Senior Research Associate** (Level B) will be based in the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering (SPREE) within the Faculty of Engineering at UNSW Sydney and will work as part of the Collaboration on Energy and Environmental Markets (CEEM). CEEM is a multi-disciplinary team of academics and researchers that collaborate closely with industry partners and with other researchers across UNSW faculties to understand the challenges and opportunities of the clean energy transition. More information is available at our website – [www.ceem.unsw.edu.au](http://www.ceem.unsw.edu.au).

The Research Associate (Level A) / Senior Research Associate (Level B) will contribute as a social science researcher to two key interdisciplinary research projects: one exploring householder attitudes to and experiences of automation and control of electrical appliances and consumer energy resources (CER); the other exploring diverse stakeholder perspectives of community batteries, microgrids, local energy trading and other smart energy developments in fringe of grid communities.

The researcher will report to Dr Mike Roberts and may assist with the supervision of research students and casual research assistants. The research will involve several 1-2 week periods of fieldwork in remote NSW. There may also be opportunities to contribute to other related research projects and the successful applicant will be encouraged to pursue opportunities to develop their academic career including through new research proposals.

## Accountabilities

Specific accountabilities for this role include:

- Contribute independently or as a team member in collaborative research with a focus to enhance the quality of research outcomes in the discipline area.
- Undertake interdisciplinary reviews of academic literature and industry publications, including (but not limited to):
  - Home electrification and energy management, distributed energy resources, load flexibility, electricity pricing,
  - Microgrids, community batteries, local energy trading
  - Social licence for energy infrastructure and for automation, energy equity and a just transition
  - Political economy context and related topics.
- Undertake social science research activities including obtaining appropriate research ethics approvals, undertaking case study research, conducting and analysing semi-structured interviews, focus groups, online surveys, home video tours and ethnographic observations, and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data using appropriate methods.
- Engage with a wide range of stakeholders including household and business energy users, energy engineers, technicians, communications teams and other industry professionals, community representatives, regulators and other stakeholders.
- Contribute to desktop analysis of energy regulations and policy
- Present results of research and lead discussions in stakeholder reference committees, knowledge sharing workshops and academic fora.
- Support the dissemination of research outcomes through appropriate channels and outlets.
- 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 [UNSW Values in Action: Our Behaviours](#) and the [UNSW Code of Conduct](#).
- 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 Accountabilities (in addition to the above)

- Create scholarly impact in the discipline which is recognised by peers in the advancement of disciplinary knowledge.
- Contribute to the development of applications for competitive funding under the guidance of senior colleagues.
- Participate as co-investigator or chief investigator in competitive grant applications, or show evidence of active participation in research collaborations funded by competitive grants.
- Design research projects.
- Establish a personal research portfolio and start developing independent research proposals.

- Mentor and guide students and colleagues and develop the next generation of academics through involvement in supervision of HDRs (as per the norms of the discipline).

### **Skills and Experience**

- A PhD in a social science discipline (e.g., sociology, anthropology, human geography or related areas), and/or relevant work experience.
- Experience conducting social research with diverse household, professional, industry and community stakeholders
- 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 and organisational 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
- (Desirable) Experience with research that examines the interplay between social and technological systems
- (Desirable) Experience with and/ or knowledge of the Australian energy system, in particular electricity users, networks, electricity market institutions and distributed energy businesses
- (Desirable) Experience of policy and regulatory analysis and/or knowledge of the Australian energy regulatory context
- (Desirable) Full driving licence

### **Level B Skills and Experience (in addition to the above)**

- Demonstrated track record in research with outcomes of high quality and high impact with clear evidence of the desire and ability to continually achieve research excellence as well as the capacity for research leadership
- High level communication and organisational skills and demonstrated ability to manage projects with multiple partners and diverse stakeholders.

### **Pre-employment checks required for this position**

- Verification of qualifications
- Reference check

**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.