

POSITION DESCRIPTION – ACADEMIC

POSITION INFORMATION

Position Title	Senior Research Fellow (Statistics)		
Faculty	Faculty of Health Sciences		
Institute	Institute for Health and Ageing		
Nominated Supervisor	Professor Ester Cerin	Campus/Location	Melbourne St Patrick's (215 Spring street)
Academic Level	Level B or C (commensurate to skills and experience)	Academic Career Pathway	Research Only
CDF Achievement Level	1 All Staff 2 Management (Line) 2 Management (Middle) 3 Management (Senior) # Executive Leadership	Work Area Position Code	
Employment Type	Full-time, fixed term	Date reviewed	

ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement: Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is both a Catholic University and a public institution within the Australian higher education sector. ACU is an inclusive community which welcomes students and staff of all beliefs. The University is committed to a strong Catholic ethos and seeks to foster and promote teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement in the Christian tradition. As valued members of our community, all staff members are expected to have an understanding of ACU's [Mission](#) and values and to demonstrate an active contribution to them.

The University shares with universities worldwide a commitment to quality in teaching, research and service. It aspires to be a community characterised by free enquiry and academic integrity.

The University chooses to focus on areas of teaching and research that are closely connected with its particular character as a University that is Catholic, public and national. The focus areas are Theology and Philosophy, Health, Education, and the Common Good and Social Justice.

ACU has over 2,500 staff supporting more than 34,000 students across seven campuses – Adelaide, Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney and Strathfield.

The structure to support this complex and national University consists of:

- Provost
- Chief Operating Officer & Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students, Learning and Teaching

Each portfolio consists of a number of Faculties, Research Institutes or Directorates. The Directorate of Identity and Mission drives both the Identity and the [Mission](#) of the University. In addition, five Associate Vice-

Chancellors and Campus Deans focus on the University's local presence and development of the University at the local 'campus' level.

The University pursues performance excellence and offers an environment where staff are valued and rewarded. Staff are expected to demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement and to participate fully in resolving issues to achieve and maintain quality standards relevant to role. Further information about a career with ACU is available at www.acu.edu.au.

ACU is committed to diversity and social inclusion in its employment practices. Applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities and people from culturally diverse groups are encouraged.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND AGEING

The Institute for Health and Ageing (IHA) commenced operation in January 2015, and is the seventh research institute established as part of ACU's program of research intensification.

IHA aims to enhance the lives of older people and those who support them by approaching issues of ageing through a positive, multidisciplinary lens across a range of settings including community, residential and acute care. IHA's approach is multi-faceted and highly collaborative, with an emphasis on drawing upon the wide-ranging skills and experience of the Institute's staff and research partners to find effective, novel and sustainable responses to issues and problems associated with ageing.

IHA has grown rapidly in its first phase of operation, with a focus on creating teams of highly skilled research staff and practitioners whose work intersects with ageing. Our research streams incorporate a range of key focus areas, including:

- Active living
- Biostatistics
- Built environment
- Cancer
- Health economics
- Inequalities in health
- Mental health
- Musculoskeletal health
- Nutrition
- Urban Spaces and Active Ageing
- Research translation
- Women's health

POSITION PURPOSE

Provides high-quality statistical inputs, and conducts research in statistical methodology aligned with research programs in environmental influences on active living and health.

Primarily responsible for conducting analyses for the International Physical Activity and the Environment (IPEN) projects and other cross-sectional and longitudinal studies spanning a broad range of modalities.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

A number of frameworks and standards express the University's expectations of the conduct, capability, participation and contribution of staff. These are listed below:

- ACU Strategic Plan 2015-2020
- Catholic Identity and Mission
- Learning For Life Framework 2014-2017
- ACU Teaching Criteria and Standards Framework
- Research Quality Standards
- Academic Performance Matrices and Evidence Framework
- ACU Capability Development Framework
- Minimum Standards for Academic Levels (MSALs)
- Higher Education Standards Framework
- ACU Service Principles
- ACU Staff Enterprise Agreement including provisions in relation to Performance Excellence and Academic Career Pathways.

The following two frameworks in particular are important in understanding the expectations of an academic position and the required qualifications and capability of a position holder:

- The [Academic Performance Matrices and Evidence Framework](#) which describes the performance standards in areas of academic activity.
- The [Capability Development Framework](#) which describes the core competencies needed in all ACU staff to achieve the University's strategy and supports its mission.

All academic staff are allocated workload comprising a range of academic duties/activities that fall within the following three broad areas of academic activity in line with the relevant Academic Career Pathway and Academic Level.

- Teaching, Curriculum Development and Scholarship of Teaching
- Research
- Academic leadership/service.

Key responsibilities

Broad area of academic activity	Key responsibilities specific to this position	Relevant Core Competencies (Capability Development Framework)
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality statistical inputs as a collaborative researcher to the development, design, analysis and reporting of designated research projects. 	Collaborate effectively Be responsible and accountable for achieving excellence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructively and actively engage in research within the Built Environment research stream of the Institute for Health and Ageing by participating in initiatives to enhance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ research design and associated quantitative methods ○ the competitiveness of funding submissions ○ the analysis of data, and ○ the publication and dissemination of results. 	Collaborate effectively Know ACU work processes and systems Make informed decisions

Broad area of academic activity	Key responsibilities specific to this position	Relevant Core Competencies (Capability Development Framework)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to scholarly publication, and generate research and commercial funding for the Built Environment research stream. 	Collaborate effectively Communicate with impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct research in statistical methods that are relevant to the Institute's Built Environment research programs and produce conference and seminar papers and publications from that research. 	Make informed decisions Communicate effectively
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide assistance with the co-ordination of research projects on the built environment, active living and health. 	Collaborate effectively Know ACU processes and systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular written and verbal reports detailing the research activities undertaken as part of the appointment. 	Communicate effectively Be responsible and accountable for achieving excellence
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with health and safety policies and procedures and the conduct of safe work practices 	Be responsible and accountable for achieving excellence Know ACU processes and systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain research confidentiality and conform to all requirements of research ethics, and the protection of intellectual property 	Be responsible and accountable for achieving excellence Know ACU processes and systems
Academic Leadership and Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the activities of the university, particularly those relating to research within academic and professional communities in Australia and internationally. 	Deliver stakeholder centric services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentor junior research staff and higher degree by research students 	Coach and develop
Teaching, curriculum development and scholarship of teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake supervision of postgraduate research students. 	Deliver stakeholder centric services Coach and develop

SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications and Capability		Selection Criteria
Qualifications and other credentials		
1.	PhD or relevant postgraduate qualification in biostatistics/statistics (preferred) and/or epidemiology and/or quantitative psychology or demonstrated equivalent combination of relevant education, training, accreditation and experience.	Yes
2.	Extensive experience in the design and analysis of experiments and complex sample surveys in one or more of the biological, health, behavioural and social sciences.	Yes
3.	Extensive experience in established and novel methods for spatial and other correlated data.	Yes
4.	Extensive experience with a range of statistical analysis packages and programming environments, particularly R, STATA and MPlus.	Yes
Teaching, curriculum development and scholarship of teaching		
5.	Experience in contributing to the guidance and supervision of HDR students	Yes
Research		
6.	Demonstrated strong record of co-authored publications, conference papers and/or reports in one or more of the biological, health, behavioural and social sciences.	Yes
Academic leadership/service		
7.	Demonstrated ability to work effectively as a collaborative researcher and liaise, negotiate and build effective relationships with stakeholders.	Yes
Core Competencies		
8.	Demonstrate confidence and courage in achieving ACU's Mission, Vision and Values by connecting the purpose of one's work to ACU's Mission, Vision and Values.	Yes
9.	Work collaboratively internally and externally to ACU to capitalise on all available expertise in pursuit of excellence.	Yes
10.	Track record of taking personal accountability for achieving the highest quality outcomes through understanding the context, self-reflection, and aspiring to and striving for excellence.	Yes
Other attributes		
11.	Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity and ethical practice principles and demonstrated knowledge of equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety, appropriate to the level of the appointment.	Yes