

Position Description

Associate Research Fellow



Details

Area	Faculty of Health
Team / School	IMPACT Institute, School of Medicine
Employment	Fixed-Term (12 months)
Location	Flexible with time at Deakin Downtown and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
Classification	Level A
Manager Title	Associate Professor, Molecular Psychiatry

Deakin

Deakin is a Victorian university with a global impact. We are agile and innovative, and committed to making a positive impact through our excellence in education and research and the contributions we make to the wider community.

Our reputation has been built on the dedication and expertise of our staff. We offer a dynamic, diverse and inclusive working environment with opportunities to grow and develop careers. We believe that a progressive, thriving culture will ensure people choose to come, and stay at Deakin and contribute to our ongoing success.

As one of Australia's largest universities, Deakin has strong global linkages, world-class research and an education portfolio that blends the best of campus and digital delivery into a highly supportive and personalised student experience.

We offer outstanding education founded on the experience we create for our learners and guided by graduate outcomes for successful lives and careers. We undertake globally significant discovery research that benefits our communities through the innovative translation of our ideas into new services, products, policies and capabilities.

At Deakin we value diversity, embrace difference and nurture an inclusive, safe and respectful community. Deakin is an Employer of Choice for Gender Equality, a SAGE Athena SWAN Bronze Award holder, seeking gender equity for Women in STEMM, and a Silver Award holder in the Australian Workplace Equality Index for LGBTQ inclusion. We strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people of all cultures, abilities, sexualities and genders.

[Strategic Plan – Deakin 2030: Ideas to Impact](#)

[Benefits of working at Deakin](#)

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Overview

The Associate Research Fellow will conduct activities in the area of behavioural neuroscience. The incumbent will be required to manage and assist a project “Prefrontal dopamine in the dynamic processes of learning across lifetime”, which involves tasks including but not limited to: behavioural training, tissue collection/sectioning, surgeries, voltammetry, tissue processing (e.g., immunohistochemistry), and microscopy imaging in rodents. The incumbent will contribute to all facets of the project including administrative and laboratory duties. The Associate Research Fellow will work closely with the Future Fellow and other staff employed on the project. The incumbent will also be required to organise and attend relevant meetings, communicating with the Molecular Psychiatry Laboratory members. The incumbent will be based primarily at Deakin Downtown (Docklands) and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health (Parkville).

Responsibilities

- Conduct high-quality research, scholarship, and creative activities generating high impact outputs with mentorship including execution of experiments including but not limited to rodent behavioural training, tissue collection/sectioning, surgeries, tissue processing (e.g., immunohistochemistry), and microscopy imaging in rodents.
- Supervise and train more junior staff including higher degree research students (PhD, Masters, Honours)
- Undertake general administrative duties involved in managing a laboratory.
- Manage or provide significant assistance to the operations of the research laboratory including maintaining laboratory equipment and materials, the disposal of waste and the ordering of supplies
- Data entry and analysis and preparation of results and reports as requested by the Future Fellow
- Support and may lead applications for funding for research and creative activities
- Begin building body of work and reputation and recognition for quality, excellence and impact
- Participate in intra- and inter-disciplinary research collaborations
- Provide administrative and financial management support for research projects and programs including the maintenance and use of electronic and paper based information systems, databases and records
- Keep abreast of developments, activities and protocols in area of expertise through liaison with staff and peers, reading relevant literature and attendance at relevant seminars
- Remain up to date with current literature and methods relevant to the area of responsibilities
- Attend other meetings as appropriate, such as Institute / School meetings and / or membership of a limited number of Committees
- Communicate outputs, including as part of team
- Understand the objectives and outcomes to be delivered by the University’s strategic agenda
- Support Deakin community engagement plan
- Other duties as required within the scope of the classification of this position

Relationships

- Internal relationships: The incumbent will join the Molecular Psychiatry laboratory to perform tasks as required by Associate Professor Jee Hyun Kim who will act as primary supervisor. The appointee will work with support, guidance and / or direction from research only staff classified at Associate Research Fellow (Level A) and above.

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- External relationships: While based at Deakin Downtown and employed by Deakin University, the Associate Research Fellow will work closely with the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and the University of Melbourne. The IMPACT Institute has extensive collaborations with other institutions both locally and internationally.

Selection

Qualifications and experience

- PhD in a psychology, neuroscience, biomedicine, or other related discipline with a and/or other relevant qualifications and experience
- Experience in a variety of laboratory techniques, with an emphasis on rodent handling and behavioural training experience
- Surgery in small animals
- Background knowledge and techniques in molecular and cellular biology
- Developing track record in the field of neuroscience. Research experience that has resulted in publications, conference papers, reports, or professional or technical contributions, which give evidence of research ability.
- Demonstrated ability to analyse information and produce clear, succinct reports and documents with reliability, accuracy and attention to detail
- High level planning and organisational skills, with the ability to prioritise multiple tasks and set and meet deadlines
- Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team with excellent interpersonal skills and a proven ability to establish good working relationships with colleagues and proven oral, written communication and presentation skills.
- Evidence of scientific training including an ability to solve problems by using discretion, innovation and diagnostic skill within areas of responsibility
- Demonstrated well developed computer literacy and proficiency in the production of high level work using software such as Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Suite, with the capability and willingness to learn new packages as appropriate
- A demonstrated awareness of the principles of confidentiality, privacy and information handling

DESIRABLE

- Voltammetry and electrophysiology skills
- Experience with biostatistics
- Well developed written and oral presentation skills
- Confocal microscopy skills
- Ability to develop new techniques, to troubleshoot and interpret data

Capabilities

1. **Digital Literacy:** Interprets and distils information; produces clear communications through a variety of digital platforms
2. **Collaboration:** Proactively supports working together, shares ideas and provides constructive feedback; respects and values others
3. **Emotional Intelligence:** Recognises emotions in self and others; uses emotional cues to guide thinking and behaviour

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4. **Building Networks and Partnerships:** Identifies and invests in relationships essential for positive outcomes
5. **Communicating with Influence:** Engages and energises others through clear and persuasive communication
6. **Personal Resilience:** Maintains composure and focus under pressure, adapts to changing situations and recovers from setbacks

Special Requirements

- Infrequent travel may be required (e.g., between Deakin campuses)
- Working with Children Check (refer to Recruitment Procedure)
- National Police Record Check (refer to Recruitment Procedure)

Note

The intention of the position description is to provide an outline of scope and responsibilities, at a point in time. Please note, responsibilities may evolve in accordance with organisational needs.