



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

**Centre for Youth Mental Health**  
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

### Research Assistant - HYPE

<b>POSITION NO</b>	0046097
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Research Assistant, Level A
<b>WORK FOCUS CATEGORY</b>	Academic Specialist
<b>SALARY</b>	\$69,148 - \$93,830 p.a. (pro rata for part-time)
<b>SUPERANNUATION</b>	Employer contribution of 9.5%
<b>WORKING HOURS</b>	Part-time (0.6 FTE)
<b>BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>	Fixed-term position available until 31 December 2019 Fixed-term contract type: Externally funded.
<b>OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits</a>
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	Online applications are preferred. Go to <a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers</a> , select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then find the position by title or number.
<b>CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY</b>	Dr Jennifer Betts Tel +61 401 772 660 Email <a href="mailto:Jennifer.betts@orygen.org.au">Jennifer.betts@orygen.org.au</a>  <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:  
[about.unimelb.edu.au/careers](http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers)

## ***Position Summary***

Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health (Orygen) is the world's leading research and knowledge translation organisation focusing on mental ill-health in young people.

At Orygen, our leadership and staff work to deliver cutting-edge research, policy development, innovative clinical services, and evidence-based training and education to ensure that there is continuous improvement in the treatments and care provided to young people experiencing mental ill-health.

The Company has three Members: the Colonial Foundation, The University of Melbourne and Melbourne Health.

The University of Melbourne has an agreement with Orygen for designated employees to be made available to undertake activities for Orygen, and this arrangement will apply to you. University employees working at Orygen are required at all times to continue to adhere to University policies, procedures, regulations and statutes, as well as to Orygen policies and procedures (including Orygen's delegations of authority framework which can be found at <http://staff.orygen.org.au/>), but the University's policies and procedures shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency. For the period of participating in activities at Orygen, you will be subject to the reasonable control and direction of Orygen. You consent to the University disclosing to Orygen your personal employment information solely for the purposes of facilitating your secondment to Orygen, and that such disclosure will not be a breach of any of your privacy rights. A Research Assistant is required to support the development of a school-based program providing suicide prevention education, case detection and support to high school students across north-west Melbourne.

The Research Assistant will work on studies investigating borderline personality disorder, conducted by the Helping Young People Early (HYPE) research program at Orygen, The National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health and conducted with young people from the HYPE clinical program.

The role will primarily involve working on a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)-funded randomised controlled trial, (called Verbatim), investigating whether a second-generation antipsychotic (aripiprazole) can reduce the severity of auditory verbal hallucinations in youth with BPD. There will also be the opportunity to work on other HYPE studies.

The Research Assistant will be required to display self-initiative and work productively within the research and clinical teams using established protocols. The Research Assistant will also be required to keep meticulous records and maintain data, assisting with data entry and verification.

The Research Assistant will report to, and work under the direction of the Trial Coordinator and Principal Investigator, who reports to the Head, Centre for Youth Mental Health.

## ***1. Key Responsibilities***

### **1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SUPPORT**

- ▶ Participate in research independently and as a member of a research team;
- ▶ Liaise with Orygen Youth Health clinical program staff, with youth with borderline personality disorder and their families to recruit participants;

- ▶ Conduct clinical interviews with participants within clinical (e.g. Orygen Youth Health) and community settings (e.g. client's homes, schools, etc) using multiple standardised clinical assessment instruments according to the research protocol;
- ▶ Organise, conduct and facilitate participant MRI imaging sessions at the Austin Hospital.;
- ▶ Facilitate participants' attendance at pathology collection centres and conduct bio-specimen (e.g. hair sample) data collection;
- ▶ Liaise with clients, families and Orygen Youth Health clinical staff to transfer the trial investigational product (aripiprazole/placebo) to participants and to support the adherence to the treatment protocol;
- ▶ Collect accurate data, assist with data entry and data verification and conduct basic data analysis;
- ▶ Complete regular inter-rater reliability checks for compliance purposes;
- ▶ Maintain accurate and detailed records of study data and participant information and consent procedures as well as maintaining confidential files and reports;
- ▶ Participate in the preparation of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals;
- ▶ Regularly communicate and report to the study coordinator (primary) and chief investigator (secondary) on study progress.
- ▶ Participate in other research projects at Orygen as required.

## 1.2 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- ▶ Build competence and confidence in presenting the projects, study methods, analysis and results to academic and community audiences.
- ▶ Work collegially as part of the project team involving multidisciplinary clinical, research and translational staff and manage research and clinical relationships.
- ▶ Prepare and present reports for team meetings and study investigators.
- ▶ Attend and participate in research meetings and associated research events.
- ▶ Undertake other duties as requested by the supervisor and the Chair of CYMH.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5.

## 2. Selection Criteria

### 2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Honours or Masters degree in behavioural or social sciences and/or related discipline, with subsequent experience.
- ▶ High-level understanding of mental disorders (particularly borderline personality disorder), including adolescent development issues.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to conduct interviews and interact with young people with mental health problems.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to understand and adhere to a research study protocol and familiarity with research and experimental design issues.
- ▶ Demonstrated administrative, organisation and problem-solving skills in a research setting, including meticulous record keeping, data management skills (e.g. data entry, data verification) and ability to prioritise work to manage during peak periods.

- ▶ Demonstrated excellent written and oral communication skills for effective research collaboration and engagement.
- ▶ Valid Victorian driver's licence and unrestricted right to work in Australia.

## 2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Experience conducting randomised controlled trials, particularly with pharmaceutical interventions.
- ▶ Experience in handling and processing bio-specimens (e.g. blood, hair).
- ▶ Knowledge and experience of neuroimaging, data processing and analyses, proficient use of image analysis software (e.g. FSL, ANALYZE, SPM, MEDx).
- ▶ Experience in writing research publications independently or as part of a research team.

## 2.3 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ OHSE training is essential and provided by Orygen.
- ▶ All work places are non-smoking environments.
- ▶ The Research Assistant will be based in Parkville, but will be required to collect data from a range of locations including Orygen Youth Health's Sunshine and Footscray sites and in participants' homes in western and north-western Melbourne.
- ▶ Flexibility to work out of business hours for operational and research purposes.
- ▶ Any offer of employment is conditional upon receipt and maintenance of a satisfactory Working with Children's Check and a valid Police Check.

## 3. *Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion*

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the University's People Strategy 2015-2020 and policies that address diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people's age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to strive for excellence and reach the targets of Growing Esteem.

## ***4. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)***

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

<http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

## ***5. Other Information***

### **5.1 CENTRE FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**

[www.cymh.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.cymh.unimelb.edu.au) and [www.orygen.org.au](http://www.orygen.org.au)

In January 2009 the University of Melbourne established a new Centre for Youth Mental Health (CYMH) within the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences, where the academic and professional staff who are provided to Orygen are now based. All NHMRC and ARC Grants to be used for Orygen activities are managed within CYMH.

The creation of this academic and administrative structure reflects the multidisciplinary nature of this field of inquiry and knowledge, and its growing scientific and practical breadth and significance. This is only the fourth such supra-departmental structure to be created in the Faculty and there is no parallel to date anywhere else in Australia.

The Chair of the Centre for Youth Mental Health is Professor Patrick McGorry and the Chief Operating Officer is Mr John Moran. Reporting arrangements are through the University of Melbourne structure with a direct report to Professor Shitij Kapur, Dean of the Faculty.

The Research Division of Orygen is staffed by the academic, research and associated professional staff from the Centre for Youth Mental and clinical specialists from Melbourne Health.

Our areas of research are:

- Clinical Translational Neuroscience
- E-Health
- Emerging Mental Disorders
- First Episode Psychosis
- Functional Recovery
- Mood Disorders
- Neurobiology and Neuroprotection in Emerging Mental Disorders
- Personality Disorders
- Suicide Prevention
- Ultra-High Risk for Psychosis
- Vulnerable and Disengaged Youth

### **5.2 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

[www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) plays a vital role in the delivery of the University of Melbourne's Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Growing Esteem by providing current and future generations with education and research equal to the best in the world. It is Australia's largest and leading biomedical research faculty. It employs more than 1,700 members of staff, has more than 8,000 students, and total revenue of \$607 million for 2015. Reflecting the complexity of today's global health landscape, the Faculty is made up of six different Schools and four Strategic Research Initiatives, and draws together all areas of human health, ranging from the most basic to the most applied areas of research. The Faculty contributes close to 50 per cent of research conducted at the University.

The Faculty has appointed Australia's first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University-wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty's RAP will address Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

### 5.3 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide-range of knowledge-based industries. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded.

Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers>.

### 5.4 GROWING ESTEEM, THE MELBOURNE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH AT MELBOURNE: ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT TO 2025

Growing Esteem describes Melbourne's strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership>

The University is at the forefront of Australia's changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Curriculum. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

The University's global aspirations seek to make significant contributions to major social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, the University's research strategy *Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025* aspires to a significant advancement in the excellence and impact of its research outputs.

<http://research.unimelb.edu.au/our-research/research-at-melbourne>

The strategy recognises that as a public-spirited, research-intensive institution of the future, the University must strive to make a tangible impact in Australia and the world, working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and building deeper and more substantive engagement with industry, collaborators and partners. While cultivating the fundamental enabling disciplines through investigator-driven research, the University has adopted three grand challenges aspiring to solve some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century. These Grand Challenges include:

- ▶ Understanding our place and purpose – The place and purpose grand challenge centres on understanding all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on Australia's 'place' in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and on our 'purpose' or mission to improve all dimensions of the human condition through our research.
- ▶ Fostering health and wellbeing – The health and wellbeing grand challenge focuses on building the scale and breadth of our capabilities in population and global health; on harnessing our contribution to the 'convergence revolution' of biomedical and health research, bringing together the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences; and on addressing the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing by looking beyond the traditional boundaries of biomedicine.
- ▶ Supporting sustainability and resilience – The sustainability and resilience grand challenge addresses the critical issues of climate change, water and food security, sustainable energy and designing resilient cities and regions. In addition to the technical aspects, this grand challenge considers the physical and social functioning of cities, connecting physical phenomena with lessons from our past, and the implications of the technical solutions for economies, living patterns and behaviours.

Essential to tackling these challenges, an outstanding faculty, high performing students, wide collaboration including internationally and deep partnerships with external parties form central components of Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025.

## 5.5 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance>