

# Position Description

## Associate Research Fellow



### Details

Area	Faculty of Health
Team	School of Medicine, Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT)
Location	Waurrn Ponds campus or Health Education and Research Building (HERB), Geelong
Classification	Level A
Reports to	Associate Professor in Biostatistics

### 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.

Deakin campuses sit on Wadawurrung, Wurundjeri, and Eastern Maar Countries, and the University acknowledges, values and deeply respects its connection with the Traditional Custodians and Elders past and present of these lands and waterways. Deakin is the most popular university destination in Victoria for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and has a rich history of supporting the ambitions of First Nations students, including through the NIKERI Institute (formerly the Institute of Koorie Education).

Deakin aspires to be Australia's most progressive university, with the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion underpinning our approach to education, research, employability, digital delivery, innovation, and partnerships for impact. Our vision is for an inclusive environment where we value and celebrate diversity, embrace difference and nurture a connected, safe and respectful community. We want Deakin to be a place where all staff and students feel included and respected for their unique perspectives and talents.

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

[Benefits of working at Deakin](#)

### Overview

The Faculty of Health is dedicated to being at the forefront of teaching, learning, creating, and social development and fostering cutting-edge research and discovery. We work closely with industry partners and the government to put findings into practice.

The Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT) places high emphasis on research that is solution-led and improves health outcomes for the local and global community.

The Associate Research Fellow will integrate and interpret large-scale biological and medical imaging data. They will lead computational support for projects focused on high-definition modelling of mental and physical health disorders in a research setting. The successful candidate will be key in conducting advanced bioinformatics analyses to interpret high-dimensional data. They will develop and apply innovative computational methods and algorithms to identify biomarkers and therapeutic targets in mental and physical health disorders. The candidate will collaborate closely with interdisciplinary teams, including clinicians, biologists, and computational scientists, to design and implement integrative data analysis pipelines. Additionally, they will contribute to developing and maintaining bioinformatics tools and databases that support the research community. The candidate will present their findings at national and international conferences and publish results in high-impact scientific journals.

Reporting to the Associate Professor in Biostatistics, the incumbent will:

- Develop and maintain computational analytical pipelines.
- Develop innovative methods to integrate data generated by IMPACT researchers with publicly available datasets to enhance analyses and add value.
- Perform statistical analyses and develop predictive models to identify patterns and relationships in biological and medical imaging data.
- Maintain and curate bioinformatics databases and resources.
- Support researchers and collaborators by performing bioinformatic analysis.
- Prepare technical reports, publications, and presentations to communicate findings to technical and non-technical audiences.
- Provide bioinformatics support and training to other team members.

### Accountabilities

#### *Research and Innovation*

- Conduct high-quality research, scholarship and creative activities generating high impact outputs, with mentorship
- Engage collaboratively to participate in novel and high-quality research or creative activities
- Communicate outputs, including as part of a team
- Ensure impact of academic activity on the field and community
- Support and may lead applications for funding for research and creative activities
- Begin building a body of work and reputation and recognition for quality, excellence and impact.
- Participate in intra- and inter-disciplinary research collaborations
- Build awareness of industry partners and participate in opportunities for research partnerships

- Support and may lead in applications for external competitive and other funding
- Begin to build track record of timely delivery of outcomes for industry partners
- Co-supervise honours students to timely outcomes with productive high-quality outcomes
- Develop working relationships with mentors and supervisors
- Develop an early career research plan with guidance from mentors and supervisors
- Adopt a culture of research excellence, innovation and impact
- Build awareness of relevant industry partners and opportunities for HDRs/ECRs placements

### *University Citizenship and Engagement*

- Contribute to the Deakin community and its effectiveness via local engagement and citizenship activities
- Understand the objectives and outcomes to be delivered by the University's strategic agenda
- Contribute to community beyond Deakin via engagement activities
- Support Deakin community engagement plan

### **Selection**

#### *Qualifications and experience*

- A Ph.D. in Bioinformatics, Computer Science, Computational Biology, or a related field.
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- Proficiency in programming languages such as Python and R, and familiarity with bioinformatics tools and software (e.g., java, JavaScript, C++, C#, MATLAB).
- Track record of scholarly publications using relevant bioinformatics techniques.
- Knowledge of statistical methods and software for bioinformatics applications.
- Strong organisation skills, attention to detail; propensity to structure analytical steps in well-documented and reproducible workflows.
- Excellent problem-solving, analytical and critical thinking skills; collaborative attitude and ability to work in teams with colleagues of heterogeneous scientific backgrounds.
- Ability to manage competing priorities in a fast-paced environment and to work independently.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a proven ability to establish good working relationships with colleagues
- Ability to contribute to community engagement for research
- Proven experience in bioinformatics analysis, preferably within a research or clinical setting (desirable).
- Knowledge of regulatory and ethical considerations in medical research (desirable).

### **Capabilities**

- **Emotional Intelligence** manages emotions to positively influence behaviour.
- **Growth Mindset** open to learning and new experiences, invests in development.
- **Communicates** engages others through persuasive and influential communication.
- **Engages Other** establishes effective relationships to achieve shared goals.
- **Plans work** plans the delivery of work while balancing priorities and resources.
- **Navigates Complexity** makes sense of complex issues and responds insightfully.

### Special Requirements

- This position may require the incumbent to travel domestically to attend conferences, events and to represent the university.
- This position requires the incumbent to hold a current Working with children Check

**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.