

Position Description

Counsellor



Details

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| Faculty or Portfolio | Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Portfolio |
| Division or School or Institute / Team | Student Services / Student Health and Wellbeing |
| Employment | Continuing, Full-time |
| Location | Burwood Campus |
| Classification | HEW 8 |
| Manager | Manager, Student Psychological Programs and Services |

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](#)

Position Description

Counsellor



Overview

Deakin counsellors are student mental health experts who provide best practice and evidence-based assessment, referral, consultation and short-term solution focussed counselling to support Deakin students and their academic outcomes. Counsellors promote wellbeing, enhance the mental health literacy of the University community and minimise negative impacts of mental ill-health on student learning. Counsellors provide accessible counselling services that are responsive and relevant to the needs of students from all backgrounds (international, CALD, age, gender, LGBTIQ etc). The Counsellor may supervise postgraduate trainees. Counsellors may also be responsible for the local counselling team response to critical incidents including provision of psychological first aid.

The Counsellor will build and maintain effective relationships across the University, including within the multi-disciplinary Student Health and Wellbeing team. The position will collaborate with staff and be responsible for regular consultation with academics, professional staff, Deakin College staff and members of the Deakin University Student Association on matters relating to student mental health and educational needs, as well as providing recommendations regarding suitable interventions/solutions to student issues.

Accountabilities

1. Provide evidence-based assessment and short-term psychological interventions to support student mental health and improve academic outcomes.
2. Assess for, and manage, emerging, acute, and complex student mental health issues, including student risk.
3. Actively engage and enable collaboration across a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals and with a diverse range of stakeholders to provide inclusive and accessible services and expert advice to support student mental health
4. Based upon best practice guidelines, student feedback and clinical outcome measures, use understanding of student mental health to anticipate needs, tailor services, improve service offering and ensure high-quality outcomes
5. Provide training and education to enhance mental health literacy and improve student outcomes
6. Maintain appropriate records management in accordance with the requirements of Deakin University, relevant legislation and professional bodies
7. Proactively create, establish and retain professional networks within and external to Deakin which have practical application and alignment within Deakin to support student mental health
8. Utilising mental health expertise, identify and analyse student mental health trends to design, implement and evaluate initiatives and programs that are based on best practice guidelines

Relationships

- Internal relationships: Faculty course advisors, academic staff, Student Services, Study skills, DUSA welfare and advocacy, residential support
- External relationships: local psychiatric triage/CATT services, specialist counselling services (eg. AOD, CASA)

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Selection

Qualifications and experience

- Registration as a Psychologist with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) or membership of Australian Association of Social Work (AASW) with registration as mental health Social Worker
- Postgraduate qualifications or progress towards postgraduate qualifications and extensive relevant experience or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training (*desirable*)
- Professionally approved training and experience in initial critical incident response
- Knowledge of the tertiary university context and the range of issues faced by a diverse student population, e.g. First-in families, transition, cultural, pressures of tertiary study.
- Skills and experience in providing counselling via phone and online.
- Advanced clinical, assessment and intervention skills
- Experience and expertise in the provision of evidence-based, short term counselling
- Current AHPRA approved supervisor (*desirable*)
- An accredited facilitator of Mental Health First Aid training (Standard/Tertiary Blended) (*desirable*)

Capabilities

1. **Planning and Organising:** Plans, analyses and co-ordinates the delivery of services and projects while balancing priorities and resources
2. **Analysis and Problem Solving:** Sources relevant information; identifies problems and offers sustainable practical solutions
3. **Collaboration:** Proactively supports working together, considers others perspectives in making decisions, shares ideas and provides constructive feedback; respects and values others
4. **Consulting and Advice:** Provides expert and valued advice; supports achievement of outcomes for stakeholders
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 work outside business hours is required (e.g., work at evening or weekend events is required)
- Infrequent travel between campuses is required
- Working with Children 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.