

Position Description

Research Fellow

Position No:	New
Business Unit:	Provost
Division:	School of Psychology and Public Health
Department:	Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre
Classification Level:	Level B Research Fellow
Employment Type:	Full-time, Fixed term
Campus Location:	Melbourne (Bundoora)
Other Benefits:	http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits

Further information about:

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

School of Psychology and Public Health – <http://latrobe.edu.au/school-psychology-and-public-health>

Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre – <http://latrobe.edu.au/otarc>

Position Description

Position Context/Purpose

The Research Fellow will be part of the research team at the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre (OTARC). OTARC is Australia's first Centre dedicated to autism research, established in 2008. It provides a vehicle for knowledge creation and translation including evidence-based practices and supports, training opportunities and collaboration with community services and research centres/universities involved in autism research both in Australia and overseas. With a focus across the lifespan and the full range of ability, research at the OTARC encompasses four core program areas: Identification and Diagnosis; Supports and Practices for Daily Living; Educational and Vocational Engagement; and Health and Wellbeing.

OTARC is one of four research centres within the School of Psychology and Public Health, one of the larger Schools within the University. The School undertakes teaching and research across a broad range of disciplines, including: Neuroscience; Psychology; Counselling; Rehabilitation Counselling; Art Therapy; Family Therapy; Public Health; Digital Health and Analytics; Health Information Management; and Ergonomics, and Safety and Health. In addition to OTARC, the School comprises: the Department of Psychology, Counselling and Therapy, the Department of the Public Health, The Bouverie Centre, the Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR), and the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS).

La Trobe University offers a range of general and specialist undergraduate and postgraduate courses that are rigorous and attuned to meeting the needs of students in ensuring their readiness to work in changing environments. It's research achievements have an outstanding reputation for innovation and contribution to society and are at the forefront of building strong relationships with industry partners.

As a Level B research only academic, the Research Fellow is expected to make original contributions towards the research effort of the centre and to develop their research expertise through the pursuit of defined projects relevant to the particular field of research.

The Research Fellow will undertake and publish research related to at least one of the following research program areas:

- **Identification and Diagnosis:** *Developing and evaluating evidence-based approaches to identify and diagnose Autism at all ages to activate timely and personalised supports.*
- **Supports and Practices for Daily Living:** *Developing and evaluating evidence-based practices and supports that enable Autistic people to live a life that is meaningful to them across the lifespan.*
- **Health and Wellbeing:** *Understanding factors that influence the health and wellbeing of Autistic people and developing supports and practices to support them across the lifespan.*
- **Educational and Vocational Engagement:** *Determining and promoting the best learning and vocational pathways for Autistic people at all levels of education and in volunteer and paid employment.*

In so doing, they will be expected to meet annual publication and income targets consistent with a research workload allocation of 70%.

Duties at this level will include:

- Initiate and develop research projects for approval by the Supervisor.
- Co-ordinate, conduct, prepare and publish research under limited supervision and in collaboration with the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre teams.
- Write and submit Research Project Ethics Applications in accordance with the University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).
- Maintain assessment and other research data and conduct data analysis using specified and agreed techniques and models. Contribute to the development of techniques, models and methods.

- Contribute to and coordinate the preparation, or where appropriate individual preparation, of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies with approval of the OTARC Research Executive.
- Supervise research-support and administrative staff and student researchers involved in research.
- Translate research findings into service application as appropriate.
- Be involved, where appropriate, in the promotion of research links with outside bodies.
- Participate in professional activities including presentations at conferences and seminars in field of expertise subject to availability of funds.
- Co-supervise or where appropriate supervise honours, masters and higher degree research projects within the field of research expertise.
- Attend meetings associated the work of the organisational units to which the research is connected.
- Keep up-to-date with current and emerging issues in autism and related areas.
- Contribute to and uphold a robust and ambitious research culture.
- Provide service to the profession and/or discipline through professional association memberships.
- Provide occasional contributions to teaching and training programs.
- Undertake limited administrative functions primarily connected with the area of research.
- Undertake other duties commensurate with the classification and scope of the position as required by the OTARC Director or representative.

Essential Criteria

Skills and knowledge required for the position

- Completion of a PhD in a relevant discipline or professional area OR relevant experience within the discipline or professional area.
- High level knowledge about autism and neurodevelopmental differences
- Evidence of experience in research and evaluation and the ability to work effectively under limited supervision or independently.
- A record of contribution to publications, conference papers and/or reports, or professional or technical contributions which provide evidence of research potential.
- Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, especially the capacity to work collaboratively and cooperatively in small teams.
- Demonstrated high level of self-motivation and personal management skills.

Desirable Attributes

- Research experience resulting in publications, conference papers, reports or professional or technical contributions which give evidence of research ability related to Autism.
- Database management expertise.
- SPSS, R, other software analysis skills.
- Ability to translate research findings into service application.

Capabilities required to be successful in the position

- Ability to demonstrate self-awareness, see things from another person's perspective and actively seek out and act on feedback to improve knowledge, skills and behaviour.

- Ability to work collaboratively, recognise the value of diversity and model accountability, connectedness, innovation and care.
- Ability to think creatively, explore new ideas and respectfully challenge existing practices in order to improve current ways of working.
- Ability to implement improvements to local processes.
- Ability to build a culture of continuous improvement, implementing ideas generated by team members.

Essential Compliance Requirements

To hold this La Trobe University position the occupant must:

- Hold a Victorian Working With Children Check; AND
- take personal accountability to comply with all University policies, procedures and legislative or regulatory obligations; including but not limited to TEQSA and the Higher Education Threshold Standards.

Other Information

The position description is indicative of the initial expectation of the role and subject to changes to University goals and priorities, activities or focus of the job.

Position Flexibility

La Trobe University is committed to providing a diverse, inclusive and respectful working environment for all staff. We offer flexible work arrangements that can assist you in balancing your work and other responsibilities.

Why La Trobe:

- Develop your career at an innovative, global university where you'll collaborate with community and industry to create impact.
- Enjoy working on our inspiring and stunning campuses – the perfect hub for industry, students and academics
- Help transform the lives of students, partners and communities now and in the future

This is more than just a job. Working at La Trobe offers opportunities to demonstrate excellence and transform lives.

Here, you'll join exceptional people, partners and communities, who power our operations with ambition and purpose.

We are forward-looking and culturally inclusive. We continuously review, improve and transform our processes to embrace new, flexible approaches. That means you'll always have the opportunity to succeed and make a difference.

La Trobe's Cultural Qualities:



We are accountable

We strive for excellence in everything we do. We hold each other and ourselves to account, and work to the highest standard.



We are connected

We connect to the world outside – the students and communities we serve, both locally and globally



We are innovative

We tackle the big issues of our time to transform the lives of our students and society.



We care

We care about what we do and why we do it. We believe in the power of education and research to transform lives and global society. We care about being the difference in the lives of our students and communities

For Human Resource Use Only

Initials: Date: