

RECRUITMENT

Associate Research Fellow



CONTACT

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Applications close on <Application close date>.

About Deakin

**TOP
2%**
of the world's
universities¹

No.1

in Victoria for
student satisfaction
2010–2017²

No.214

ARWU global ranking
of world universities³
research capabilities

Deakin's growing reputation is reflected in its rapid rise in international rankings; Deakin entered the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities for the first time in 2014 and now ranks an estimated 214 (ARWU 2017). Deakin is ranked 29 in the QS ranking of the world's top universities under 50 years. Ninety percent of Deakin's research was rated at or above world standards in the Australian Government's Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA).

Established in 1974, Deakin University was named after the leader of the Australian Federation movement and the nation's second Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin.

Deakin University has five campuses, one in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, two in the port city of Geelong and one in Warrnambool on the south-west coast of Victoria. Deakin's fastest growing campus is in the Cloud where over 14 000 students study predominantly online. All students, regardless of their campus or mode of study, benefit from Deakin's award-winning digital environment.

Deakin is proud of its inclusive and student-focussed culture and its reputation for using innovative digital solutions to provide an engaging and personalised learning experience. Deakin is committed to lifelong learning, providing students with choices about how, when and where learning occurs.

Deakin's four faculties offer courses across the arts, design, science, sport, nutrition, architecture, business, law, medicine, optometry, engineering, nursing, allied health, psychology and teaching.

With 58 000 students Deakin is one of Australia's largest universities and is ranked in the top 2 per cent of the world's universities in the major international rankings (ranked 29 in the QS ranking of the world's universities under 50 year).

As a Victorian university with a global impact, Deakin is translating its research into the commercial outcomes that will drive the innovation Australia's economy needs now and into the future. Research at Deakin focusses on innovation and robust partnerships with industry and business and it is building a formidable international reputation in areas of emerging national social, economic and political priority in its core areas of health, carbon fibre, energy and cyber security. Deakin has integrated its research growth plan into its overall strategy of service, developing its base in advanced manufacturing, which is vital for the Geelong community and Information technology, which is strong in the surrounds of its Melbourne campus.

Our strategy

Deakin's vision and mission is articulated in its strategic plan *LIVE the future: 2017-2020*. Through *LIVE the future*, Deakin aspires to be Australia's premier university in driving the digital frontier, enabling globally connected education for the jobs of the future, and research that makes a difference to the communities Deakin serves.

Informed by its Australian and Victorian context and engaged locally in the communities it serves, Deakin advances:

- Learning – offering students a brilliant education where they are and where they want to go
- Ideas – making a difference through world-class innovation and research
- Value – strengthening our communities, enabling our partners and enhancing our enterprise
- Experience – delighting our students, our alumni, our staff and our friends.

These four interconnecting elements form the acronym *LIVE*, and together they articulate the Deakin promise to its students, staff, alumni, partners and friends.



Faculty of Health

Deakin Health is recognised in Australia and internationally for its teaching, training, research and service. We are one of the fastest growing health faculties in Australia. Our teaching, research and service contribute to improved health and wellbeing, and to strengthening the health and human services sectors in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. We assist governments, communities and organisations to develop a wide variety of health and social programs and policies.

The Faculty of Health teach a large variety of health disciplines and sub-disciplines at campuses and health services in Geelong, Burwood, Ballarat, Warrnambool and other locations in Melbourne, Western Victoria and further afield. Our courses are delivered both on campus and online via our Cloud Campus using a state-of-the-art blend of face-to-face and online teaching methods.

The Faculty is made up of five schools:

- School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences
- School of Health and Social Development
- School of Medicine
- School of Nursing and Midwifery
- School of Psychology

Through our Schools and research groups we work collaboratively with a wide range of external organisations. These include federal and state governments, schools, public and private hospitals, health centres, non-government organisations such as Diabetes Australia, community groups, international bodies such as the World Health Organization, commercial companies, and other universities and research institutes at home and overseas. A number of highly productive partnerships across the sector include joint appointments at professorial level.

Deakin Health is guided by a strong and vibrant commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of all people in Australia and our surrounding region. Please join us in this important work.

Deakin's Promise to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

At Deakin we value diversity, embrace difference and nurture a connected, safe and respectful community. We recognise that our academic workforce is increasingly diverse with a variety of backgrounds, experiences and responsibilities. In many cases, academic careers can be put on hold through career breaks or part-time work arrangements to take on caring duties, gain experience in other industries, for medical reasons or other personal circumstances.

Achievement relative to opportunity places more emphasis on the quality as opposed to the quantity of research outputs. In your application, we encourage you to comment on your achievements relative to opportunity.

School of Medicine

Statement of purpose: To enhance the communities we serve through outstanding clinical training and research.

Aspiration: To address the workforce needs and advance the health and well-being of regional, rural, remote, Indigenous and marginalised individuals and communities.

Values: We foster a culture of diversity, inclusiveness, respect and social accountability, with a focus on excellence, innovation and work readiness.

We accepted our first medical students in 2008 to our postgraduate medical degree, and our graduating interns have already established strong links with regional and rural hospitals, together with the Melbourne city hospitals. The Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree is a 4 year course, with first 2 years based at the University campus in Warrn Ponds, followed by 2 years of clinical education and experience in one of our clinical schools.

The School has also developed other new undergraduate and postgraduate programs, namely Optometry, Medical Imaging, Agricultural Health and Medicine, Units in the Bachelor of Biomedical Science and Health Science Majors, Bachelor of Health and Medical Science Honours, MBA (Healthcare Management), Graduate Certificate of Hospital Administration, and a Masters Degree in Surgical Research. The School has a significant number of M Phil (Masters by Research) and PhD students in both basic sciences and clinical research. Our research capability and performance has grown rapidly. This involves academic staff at the Warrn Ponds campus and those working in primary and secondary care throughout the region.

The School has four research “pillars”: Infection, Immunity and Cancer; Neurosciences; Metabolic/Musculoskeletal medicine; and Rural Health research. School staff participate in the Institute for Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (iMPACT) and work with our community partners to achieve world-class results.

Our Research Centres and partners include:

- Metabolic Research Unit (MRU)
- Centre for Rural Emergency Medicine
- Geelong Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases
- National Centre for Farmer Health
- Epworth Hospital Geelong
- St John of God Hospital Geelong
- University Hospital Geelong
- CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory
- The Western Alliance Academic Health Science Centre
- The Kardinia Health GP Superclinic

As a School we are committed to providing excellent education, research facilities and services for students and staff. We look forward to welcoming you to the School of Medicine.



Associate Research Fellow

RESEARCH ONLY LEVEL A

The Associate Research Fellow will initiate and conduct research in the area of neuroscience. This will involve behavioural and histological laboratory experiments in mice, general laboratory management, assisting with research student supervision, and the analysis and publication of research findings.

The Associate Research Fellow is expected to contribute to the research output of the Strategic Research Centre for Molecular and Medical Research.

This is a new fixed-term (2 year) position funded by an NHMRC Project Grant, APP1165801, titled “Pharmacological modulation of the relaxin-3/RXFP3 neuropeptide system for controlling feeding”. The other project partners include collaborating laboratories at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, and The University of Queensland.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

- Initiate and conduct research under limited supervision either as a member of a team, or independently (where appropriate), to achieve the objectives of the funded project.
- Constructively contribute to a vibrant research team, including participating with colleagues and supervising research students.
- Contribute to building an active national research profile, prepare findings for oral and written communication including publications and the generation of external research income.
- Promote the activities of the University, particularly those relating to research and research training, within academic and professional communities locally and in Australia.

SPECIFIC EXPERIMENTAL / RESEARCH TASKS

- Rodent behavioural experiments, with a focus on observing the effects of drugs which influence RXFP3 on feeding, stress, and other behaviours in mice.
- Collection of rodent post-mortem tissues, particularly mouse brains.
- Histological experiments, including cryosectioning of mouse brain tissue and subsequent immunohistochemistry.
- Fluorescent and confocal microscopy.
- Analysis and interpretation of behavioural and neuroanatomical data, preparation of manuscripts for submission to peer reviewed journals, and preparation of external grant applications.
- A range of other experimental tasks are likely to be conducted, depending on the skills of the applicant and research course taken, such as RNA extraction

Performance expectations

Annual performance objectives and expected outcomes will be defined for this role in accordance with the Minimum Standards and Typical Duties for Academic Levels (MSTDALs) and Faculty Research Expectation Models (FREMs). Specific duties will be allocated with reference to the applicable Workload Allocation Model (WAM). These documents are updated from time to time and are available on request.

and gene analysis, bioinformatics, and rodent surgical procedures.

- General laboratory procedures and administrative tasks (e.g. ordering, ethics applications).
- Aid in the supervision of research students within the laboratory.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Follow safe work procedures and instructions.
- Take reasonable care for the safety of self and others.
- Seek guidance for all new or modified work procedures.
- Ensure that any hazardous conditions, near misses and injuries are reported immediately to a supervisor.
- Participate in meetings, training and other health and safety activities.
- Use equipment in compliance with relevant guidelines, without wilful interference or misuse.
- Must cooperate with the University in relation to actions taken by the University in order to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental legislation.

ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The Associate Research Fellow reports to the Dean of Medicine through the relevant research supervisor.

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

The appointee will work with support, guidance and / or direction from research staff classified at Level B and above, and with an increasing degree of autonomy as the researcher gains greater skills and experience.

SELECTION CRITERIA - ESSENTIAL

QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD, with a considerable neuroscience focus.

RESEARCH

- Demonstrated ability to plan and conduct high quality research.
- Knowledge and research experience in the field of neuroscience.
- Experience in, or demonstrated capacity to learn, rodent behavioural and histological techniques relevant to the project.
- Demonstrated organisational skills including the capacity to work on multiple concurrent projects, and to meet competing deadlines.
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively as a member of a research team, including the ability to interact well with research and technical staff and students.
- Excellent oral, written communication and presentation skills, a demonstrated ability to contribute to the publication

of research journal articles and/or conference presentations, and a competitive publication track record relative to experience.

SELECTION CRITERIA - DESIRABLE

- Experience with rodent handling techniques specific to the project (for example peripheral injections, behavioural tests using motion tracking software, and/or tests that measure feeding or stress-related behaviour).
- Experience with the collection of post-mortem rodent tissues, including brains.
- Experience with conducting histological experiments specific to the project (for example cryostat sectioning of rodent tissues and immunohistochemistry).
- Experience with microscopy, including fluorescent and confocal.
- A knowledge of statistical data analysis and experience with the use of statistical software.
- Experience in contributing to the supervision of undergraduate honours and/or higher degree research (e.g. PhD) students.
- Experience with the preparation of grant applications, and/or a demonstrated capacity to be competitive for grant funding opportunities.

Appointment process and how to apply

Application

Thank you for your interest in the position of Associate Research Fellow.

Please direct all correspondence and enquiries to;

Dr Craig Smith
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Therapeutics
+61 3 5247 9473
craig.smith@deakin.edu.au

How to apply

Please apply online via:

deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/work-atdeakin

Include cover letter, curriculum vitae and a response to the Selection Criteria.

Please quote reference number:

[Insert reference number]

Interview process

An initial screening of prospective candidates will take place.

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by a panel of esteemed colleagues.

Details of professional referees will be required prior to interview.

Remuneration and benefits

An attractive remuneration package is offered. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications, experience and research record.

Term of appointment

Appointment is for a fixed term position which is subject to an initial 12 month probationary period.

Special Requirement/s

This role has been identified as having contact with children and requires the incumbent to apply for and maintain a Working With Children Check (refer to Deakin's Recruitment Procedure for further details).

Our locations

Deakin has five campuses, one in **Burwood**, two in Geelong (**Waterfront** and **Waurm Ponds**), one in **Warrnambool** and the vibrant Cloud Campus where over 25% of our students study. All students, regardless of their campus or mode of study, benefit from Deakin's award-winning digital environment.

Melbourne has been named the worlds' most liveable city for more than 5 years running*.

Further information regarding our locations and relocating to Victoria can be found here:

[Our locations](#)

[Considering Relocation](#)

[Geelong/SurfCoast timelapse](#)

**The Economist's annual study*

GEELONG WAURN PONDS CAMPUS

Geelong Waurm Ponds Campus is located on the western edge of Geelong and is a thriving regional campus attracting over 8,000 undergraduate and postgraduate on-campus students. It boasts open and inviting spaces for socialising and studying, innovative architecture, spacious new buildings and wireless hotspots. The campus features expansive landscaped grounds and extensive sporting facilities.

