

Position Description

Associate Research Fellow



Details

Area	Faculty of Health
Team	IMPACT <i>TRIALS</i> , School of Medicine
Location	HERB, Barwon Health
Classification	Level A
Reports to	Senior Lecturer

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. The School of Medicine and the Institute of Physical and Mental Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT) places high emphasis on research that makes a difference and is solution-led. We work closely with industry partners and the government to put findings into practice.

The Associate Research Fellow will engage collaboratively to conduct high-quality research, scholarship and creative activities generating high impact outputs, with mentorship from leaders within the research team. This position is suited to an emerging researcher keen to explore and build on new areas and foster research and researcher development to have real-world impact and contribute to a dynamic and enthusiastic research team.

The primary purpose of the Associate Research Fellow will be to assist in the day-to-day conduct of a clinical trial of a new medication for methamphetamine 'ice' use, called the Tina trial. Further information about the Tina trial can be found at www.tinatrial.info. The incumbent will be required to recruit and interview potential trial participants, screening them for suitability to enter the clinical trial, and if suitable enrol them in the trial and collect data from participants at scheduled appointments as described in the trial protocol. The incumbent will also be involved in data entry and data management; undertake management of biological samples; assist in recruitment strategies and participant contact; attend regular project meetings and ensure communication undertake research tasks associated with the trial such as preparing reports; and undertake other research activities for projects conducted within the unit. This is a multi-site clinical trial, and the incumbent will work as part of a multidisciplinary team of researchers and clinicians. The position will be based primarily at IMPACT, Geelong. Travel in the field is required and some work duties will involve undertaking assessments with trial participants in the field and in collaborating services.

Reporting to the Senior Lecturer the Associate Research Fellow will:

- Conduct interview assessments with research participants using psychiatric rating scales and other validated questionnaires.
- Monitor the implementation of risk assessment procedures for each trial participant, ensuring that participant care is appropriate to the perceived risk while maintaining the patient's dignity and rights. This should include a commitment to actively managing the environmental risks encountered.
- Coordinate invitations and appointments for study participants including: recruiting new participants; conducting trial interviews; follow up of missed appointments; obtaining address details and necessary consent forms from study participants; conducting assessments and interviews and collecting other relevant data; handling and storage of biological samples; and data entry as required
- Manage the research project on a day-to-day basis by ensuring that data is being collected and stored appropriately according to procedural requirements of the research project and conforming to good clinical practice guidelines.
- Apply the prior experience with the principles of good clinical practice and a commitment to operate within these guidelines. Maintain strict standards of confidentiality.
- Participate in Quality Assurance procedures related to the project and service, including any necessary training and review meetings implemented across trial sites.

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 team
- Ensure impact of academic activity on the field and the community
- Support applications for funding for research and creative activities
- Begin building 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 participates in opportunities for research partnerships
- Develop working relationship with mentors and supervisors
- Develop early career research plan with guidance from mentors and supervisors
- Adopt culture of research excellence, innovation and impact

University Citizenship and Engagement

- Contribute to 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

- Completion of a post-graduate qualification or degree or in psychology, nursing, social work or other relevant discipline and/or relevant work experience
- Demonstrated experience in clinical interviewing and assessment
- Experience in conducting research tasks
- Capacity to contribute to mentorship, teaching, research and administration
- Excellent interpersonal skills and a proven ability to establish good working relationships with colleagues
- Ability to make a contribution to community engagement for research

Capabilities

- **Digital Literacy:** Interprets and distils information; produces clear communications through a variety of digital platforms
- **Collaboration:** Proactively supports working together, shares ideas and provides constructive feedback; respects and values others
- **Emotional Intelligence:** Recognises emotions in self and others; uses emotional cues to guide thinking and behaviour
- **Building Networks and Partnerships:** Identifies and invests in relationships essential for growth and positive outcomes

- **Communicating with Influence:** Engages and energises others through clear and persuasive communication
- **Personal Resilience:** Maintains composure and focus under pressure, adapts to changing situations and recovers from setbacks

Special Requirements

- Regular local travel will be required to conduct research assessments; occasional interstate travel is required for training
- This position requires the incumbent to hold a current Working with children Check
- This position requires the incumbent to hold a current National Police Record Check
- Compliance with vaccination mandates imposed by the relevant state/territory government. Applicants who attend third-party sites to undertake University activities will also be required to comply with any other directions or requirements in place at the third-party location.

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.