

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION INFORMATION

POSITION TITLE:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
WORK AREA POSITION CODE:	<i>(To be allocated by Human Resources)</i>
FUNCTIONAL UNIT:	Faculty of Health Sciences
ORGANISATIONAL UNIT:	Institute for Health
CAMPUS:	St Patrick's campus, Melbourne
NOMINATED SUPERVISOR (TITLE):	Director, Institute for Health
CURRENT CLASSIFICATION:	Academic Level B
EMPLOYMENT TYPE	Fixed term, Full time
	A period of probation may be attached to this position.
REMUNERATION & BENEFITS:	A range of generous conditions of employment and entitlements are provided to staff some of these include: generous leave conditions; flexible working conditions; comprehensive Staff Development Programs; salary packaging benefits as a rebate able employer; reward and recognition programs.
SUPERANNUATION:	The University will contribute an amount equivalent to 9.5% or 17% of your gross annual salary to superannuation dependent on salary level, length of appointment or age.
DATE DEVELOPED/REVIEWED	July 2014

BACKGROUND

Australian Catholic University is a publicly funded university, open to all, irrespective of religious beliefs. It is committed to a strong Catholic ethos and seeks to foster and promote teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement in the Christian tradition.

The University chooses to focus on areas of teaching and research that are closely connected with its particular character as a University that is Catholic, and that is public and national. The focus areas are Theology and Philosophy, Health, Education, the Common Good and Social Justice and Law.

The University has approximately 26,000 students and over 1,700 staff. Australian Catholic University (ACU) has six campuses: St Patrick's in Melbourne, Aquinas in Ballarat, Mount Saint Mary at Strathfield and MacKillop in North Sydney, McAuley at Banyo in Brisbane and Signadou in Canberra. The Vice-Chancellor's Office is located in North Sydney.

The structure to support this complex and national University consists of:

- Provost
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students, Learning and Teaching
- Chief Operating Officer

Each portfolio consists of a number of Schools, Directorates or Institutes;

- Five Associate-Vice-Chancellors or Campus Deans that focus on the University's local presence and development of the University at the local 'campus' level;
- A Directorate of Identity and Mission that drives both the Identity and the Mission of the University and includes a number of Institutes and Directorates
- Marketing and External Relations that leads the University's marketing, student recruitment and communications functions.

The Institute of Health is based in Melbourne and builds on well-established research collaborations with St Vincent Health and also has links to The University of Melbourne. There are a number of Researchers, Staff and Students within the institute which has major aims of building research capacity, providing higher education opportunities and for the prevention and treatment of chronic disease.

POSITION PURPOSE

The newly established Institute for Health undertakes a broad portfolio of research under the leadership of Professor Simon Stewart who is also the Director of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence to Reduce Inequality in Heart Disease (CRE). The latter comprises four research themes: International Health, Remote/Regional Health, Indigenous Health and Chronic Disease Management. The CRE is broadly placed within the discipline of *health services research*.

This position will specifically support the Director, Professor Simon Stewart to support the research activities and productivity of the CRE whilst providing an opportunity to develop additional research skills and outputs relating to one or more of the key CRE themes. As such, the Fellow will initially work on research closely aligned to the ongoing program of research undertaken by the Director, but is also expected they will develop novel projects aligned to their area of strength and interest, building on the ongoing research of the CRE and wider Institute.

A major portion of this position will involve detailed aspects of design and implementation of population surveillance studies as well as pragmatic clinical trials.

SPECIFIC DUTIES

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow is expected to make a significant contribution to the research enterprise of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence to Reduce Inequality in Heart Disease led by Professor Simon Stewart and the wider Institute of Health. In particular, the Fellow will significantly contribute to the research focus on community surveillance and disease management programs focusing on heart disease.

The incumbent is expected to work under the direction of Professor Stewart and assist with the development of a dynamic research culture as well as play a role in scholarship and/or professional activities more broadly.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities include:

- Lead a Postdoctoral program of research within the CRE to Reduce Inequality in Heart Disease that will result in a series of high impact peer reviewed journal publications
- Collaborate with senior staff within the program in drafting other high quality peer-review research publications
- Conduct research both autonomously and as part of a team to produce conference and seminar papers from that research
- Seek and apply for competitive Fellowship and /or grant funding appropriate to level of qualifications/experience
- Contribute to the wider Institute's research program to ensure that targets for program recruitment, testing, intervention and follow-up of participants are met
- Work closely with on-site stakeholders to ensure research targets/findings are translated into pragmatic solutions
- Assist in the preparation of research proposal submissions and actively identify and seek funding from external bodies
- Co-supervise higher degrees students and research projects where appropriate
- Contribute to the Health Faculty's research activity and promote the research profile of the group with external bodies.

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE (Selection Criteria)

Essential

1. A PhD degree in health sciences, psychology, nursing or a related field within the preceding 8 years.
2. Demonstrated ability to manage a research team in the psychosocial and/or cardiovascular-related disciplines.
3. Experience in managing large data sets and using multivariate statistical analysis.
4. Demonstrated written and oral skills of a high order and the ability to interact collaboratively with University and Hospital staff at all levels.
5. Demonstrated ability to undertake high quality research, with a research publication within a health related field record commensurate with experience.
6. Demonstrated planning and organisational skills, with the ability to manage a number of events/projects at one time, achieve required outcomes and meet deadlines in a high pressure environment.
7. Demonstrated skills in problem solving and seeking effective outcomes to meet business requirements.
8. Applicants should demonstrate awareness of the University's Mission and Catholic ethos and demonstrate an understanding of how this role serves the Mission.
9. Applicants should demonstrate commitment to cultural diversity and ethical practice principles, and demonstrate knowledge of equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety, appropriate to the level of the appointment.

Desirable

1. Experience in the supervision of honours and research postgraduate students.

2. Track record of successful research grants and/or awards commensurate with experience (e.g. academic travel grants, conference prizes).
3. Advanced statistical skills.

Additional Information about ACU, our Organisational Structure and working at ACU can be obtained from our website www.acu.edu.au/careers.