

Position Description – Breakthrough Senior Research Fellow in Suicide Prevention

Updated 11 July 2024

POSITION DETAILS	
College	College of Education, Psychology and Social Work
Organisational Unit	Flinders Institute for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Supervisor	Dean, People and Resources (or Delegate)
Classification	Research (Academic) Level C
Employment Type	Fixed-term, full-time

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>Under broad direction, the Breakthrough Senior Research Fellow in Suicide Prevention will undertake research in suicide and suicide prevention with a particular focus on male mental health and wellbeing, including across the lifespan.</p> <p>The Senior Research Fellow will undertake their own research program while also playing a lead role in building further research capacity within the College in suicide prevention. Research areas of focus include, but are not restricted to, understanding causation, risk, and protective factors, as well as innovations in interventions to prevent suicide and suicidal behaviour (with particular interest of indicated programs). The research program is expected to result in high quality outcomes that meaningfully contribute to new knowledge that can lead to more impactful and cost-effective programs. The program of research will further inform and improve future services, health systems, and policies relevant to suicide prevention in Australia and internationally.</p> <p>The position will take a lead role in expanding the College’s research activities through the attraction of external grants and research contracts, delivering on strategic research objectives, establishing, and maintaining industry and research partnerships, and building the University’s national and international reputation through high quality publications and strong research collaborations. It is anticipated the position will enhance the Senior Research Fellow’s standing for subsequent competitive research fellowship applications.</p> <p>The Senior Research Fellow will supervise postgraduate and honours students.</p>

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES
<p>All staff at Flinders are responsible for understanding their obligations and responsibilities as set out in the University’s code of conduct and are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate commitment to the University’s values of Integrity, Courage, Innovation, Excellence and the underlying ethos of being Student Centred; contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the team or work unit in order to meet the University’s objectives. This includes demonstrating appropriate and professional workplace behaviours, providing assistance to team members if required and undertaking other key responsibilities or activities as directed by one’s supervisor;

- promote and support an inclusive workplace culture which values diversity and embraces the principles of equal opportunity;
- perform their responsibilities in a manner which reflects and responds to continuous improvement; and
- familiarise themselves and comply with the University's Work Health and Safety, Injury Management and Equal Opportunity policies.

A National Police Certificate which is satisfactory to the University will be required by Flinders University before the successful applicant can commence in this position.

In addition, it is a requirement of this position that the incumbent maintain a current Working With Children Check which is satisfactory to the University in accordance with the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 (SA).

An up to date COVID-19 vaccination may be required as a condition of employment, in accordance with the Flinders University [COVID-19 Vaccination Policy \(2022\)](#). If required, any offer of employment will be subject to the successful candidate presenting their COVID-19 Digital Certificate as evidence of vaccination or showing evidence of a valid medical exemption, where relevant.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Senior Research Fellow in Suicide Prevention is accountable for:

- Leading research that informs and builds research capacity to understanding male suicide and suicidal behaviour with an emphasis on innovative preventive interventions that will inform policy and practice.
- Making a significant contribution to ethical, high quality and innovative research through sustained high-quality publications, external research grants and contracts, mentoring and developing early career researchers and presenting at the national and international level.
- Contributing to research leadership by fostering research excellence in suicide prevention.
- Taking a lead role in the identification, coordination and submission of applications for external research income.
- Being actively involved in strategic planning and professional activities relevant to the promotion of research and in identifying opportunities to expand and grow research activity.
- Actively supervising and mentoring honours and postgraduate research students.
- Developing and maintaining, in a leadership capacity, productive strategic local, national and international relationships, collaborations and networks with a range of stakeholders including industry, government and other external organisations. This includes, but is not restricted to, the South Australian Suicide Prevention Council.
- Making a significant contribution, in a leadership capacity, to the management and administration of research in the College.
- Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as rural SA, interstate and overseas travel, may be required. A valid driver's licence is desirable.
- Any other responsibilities in line with the level of the position as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD in a relevant mental health field.
- Demonstrated evidence of an outstanding research track record (for career stage) in mental health and suicide, preferably with a focus on prevention/intervention. This includes evidence of sustained high-quality publications with corresponding authorship and attraction of competitive grants, and presentations at a national and/or international level.
- Demonstrated experience in quantitative research methodology.
- Demonstrated leadership in the suicide prevention research field and ability to mentor less experienced researchers.
- Demonstrated experience delivering project targets on time.
- Demonstrated ability to plan and execute data collection and analysis.
- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and experience in collaborating and engaging with diverse stakeholders and industry partners.
- Demonstrated experience to undertake collaborative research and establish and maintain effective relationships with staff and industry.
- Demonstrated track record of supervision of honours and higher degree students to successful completion.
- Demonstrated ability to use independent judgement and initiative, under minimal supervision, to manage, organise and coordinate activities required for undertaking a program of research.
- Knowledge of the intellectual property and/or the commercialisation process in relation to a research environment.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.