

Position Description – Research Fellow in Worm Neuroscience

Updated 30 January 2026

POSITION DETAILS

College	College of Medicine and Public Health
Organisational Unit	FHMRI
Supervisor	Senior Lecturer in Human Physiology
Classification	Research (Academic) Level B
Employment Type	Fixed-term, part-time (0.8 FTE)

POSITION SUMMARY

The Research Fellow in Worm Neuroscience will undertake research in the neuroscience of ageing using the model organism *Caenorhabditis elegans* under the broad direction of the Chief Investigator. In working with the Chief Investigator and research team, the Research Fellow in Worm Neuroscience will contribute to project design and implementation, the analysis of data and the preparation of manuscripts for publication.

The Research Fellow in Worm Neuroscience will actively report on new and current research related to the research program, through generation of high-quality publications and conference presentations. In addition, the position will contribute to the preparation of applications for externally funded research funding.

The Research Fellow will carry out independent and/or team research. They will co-supervise HDR and Honours students with the Chief Investigator and other members of the research team.

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES

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:

- 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 Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC) which is satisfactory to the University will be required by Flinders University before the successful applicant can commence in this position.

Staff working in a health care setting are strongly recommended to be fully vaccinated against COVID in line with the SA Health policy

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Fellow in Worm Neuroscience is accountable for:

- Actively contributing to the research project by collaborating with the Research Team to successfully deliver project milestones and Key Performance Indicators.
- Independently contributing to the planning and execution of research by offering new and innovative ideas, reviewing relevant literature and other sources of information, actively participating in the production of data, contributing to the writing and editing of grant applications and attending seminars, meetings and conferences.
- Playing a lead role in coordinating, planning and executing the project tasks required to collaborate with industry partners.
- Independently contributing to ethical, high quality and innovative research and evaluation through activities such as scholarship, publishing in recognised high quality journals and assisting the preparation and submission of bids for external research funding.
- Supervision of honours and postgraduate research projects.
- Establishing and maintaining collaborations within the University, and at State, national and international levels in order to improve research outputs, patents and publications.
- Some out of hours work (including weekends), may be required.
- 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 Neuroscience or related field.
- Demonstrated experience in *C. elegans* nematode research methodology including: 1) maintenance, 2) ageing experiments, 3) behavioural experiments (such as automated locomotion tracking), and 4) preparation of proteomics samples for western blotting and mass spectrometry experiments. *Please note that experience with nematode culture and behavioural experiments is essential.*
- Demonstrated experience in confocal microscopy and automated image analysis using software such as IMARIS.
- Demonstrated research experience in terms of outputs in high quality publications, attraction of competitive internal/external grants as lead investigator, and presentations at a national and international level in neuroscience.
- Demonstrated ability to critically review the literature in relevant fields and contribute to publication of focused literature reviews in the field of neurodegenerative disease.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodology.
- Demonstrated ability to plan and execute data collection and analysis in a timely manner.
- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and experience in collaborating and engaging with diverse stakeholders and industry partners (national and internationally), including research end users (consumers).
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.
- Demonstrated skills in student supervision at the PhD and/or undergraduate level.
- *3 years post PhD experience (desirable).*