Position Description – Research Assistant in Molecular Memory Research

Updated 03/11/2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College/Portfolio	***Medicine and Public Health***
Organisational Unit	***Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (Neuroscience)***
Supervisor (Title)	***Associate Professor in Neuroscience***
Classification	***Higher Education Officer Level 5***
Employment Type	***Fixed-term, Full time***

POSITION SUMMARY

The Research Assistant will work under the general supervision of A/Prof Arne Ittner, Head of the Laboratory for Molecular Memory and Dementia Research (aiLab) at FHMRI Neuroscience. The Research Assistant will assist in supporting a variety of research activities.

The Research Assistant will provide experimental and procedural support for research activities involving cells, tissue samples, plasmids, and proteins, contributing to the understanding of learning and memory mechanisms and the molecular processes occurring during memory loss in dementia. Additionally, the Research Assistant will support and conduct experiments using rodent models. Ideal candidates will have effective lab experience in molecular, protein, and cell biology, along with basic skills in lab management and administration. Candidates should be motivated and adaptable in supporting research. This is an excellent opportunity to engage in groundbreaking research within a dynamic, high-intensity lab environment.

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.



Flinders University is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment, free from gender-based violence. Appointment to this role is conditional on the completion of required pre-employment checks and declarations, each of which must be satisfactory to the University. This includes a Gender-Based Violence declaration, in accordance with the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence (2025), and a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check.

Staff working in a health care setting are strongly recommended to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in line with the SA Health policy.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Assistant is responsible for:

1. Assisting in the planning, implementation and execution of research projects.
2. Assisting in the designing, conducting, and analysing laboratory experiments.
3. Preparing and keeping research-related documentation.
4. Liaising with research collaborators and key stakeholders.
5. Training students or new staff members in laboratory techniques and assisting colleagues as needed.
6. Assisting in the writing, editing, and final preparation of manuscripts, reports, and other research outputs.
7. Assisting in the development of grant applications as required.
8. Contributing to rodent model experiments, including welfare monitoring, on weekdays and occasionally on weekends.
9. Providing administrative support, including ordering supplies, managing the laboratory, and liaising with administrative staff as needed.
10. Performing any other responsibilities aligned with the role as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of Bachelor's degree or higher in Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Neuroscience, or a related field or an equivalent combination of experience and/or education/training.
- Demonstrated ability to apply skills in molecular biology (e.g., PCR), protein biology (e.g., floating section immunostaining), histology (e.g., frozen sections), and cell biology (e.g., cell culture).
- Demonstrated experience in performing research experiments and handling laboratory mice, including stereotaxic delivery of viral vectors and behaviour and/or memory testing in mice.
- Demonstrated experience in lab admin and management tasks, preferably in a university setting, including ordering and managing inventory and databases.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team, motivated and committed to enhancing teamwork and team success.
- Sound written and oral communication skills, interpersonal skills, and cultural sensitivity.
- Sound computing skills including MS Office and statistical analysis packages
- Dedication to research in biomedical and molecular life sciences.
- Flexibility to support the research team, including occasional duties on weekends.

