

Position Description – Research Associate in Marine Biology (Biofouling & Molecular Ecology)

Updated 30 September 2026

POSITION DETAILS

College	College of Science and Engineering
Organisational Unit	Molecular Sciences & Technology
Supervisor	Professor in Biological Oceanography, Director of the ARC Training Centre for Biofilm Research & Innovation
Classification	Research (Academic) Level A
Employment Type	Fixed-term, full-time (available for 2 years)

POSITION SUMMARY

The Research Associate will contribute to the ARC Training Centre for Biofilm Research & Innovation (BRIC) project: “Investigating biofouling communities in Australian waters”. Working under the direction of the Chief Investigator and with guidance from partner investigators at the Defence Science and Technology Group and at the Australian Submarine Agency, the role involves helping to develop, manage, and carry out the project’s research activities.

In this position, the Research Associate will lead research efforts focused on detecting and identifying marine biofouling communities. Using advanced molecular techniques, they will investigate how biofouling develops over time on artificial structures, assess associated biosecurity risks, and evaluate the effectiveness of emerging anti-fouling solutions.

The Research Associate may also support the supervision and training of students involved in the BRIC project, in line with the University’s policies, practices, and standards.

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 and Excellence
- demonstrate consistent alignment with the University’s strategic priorities through daily decisions, teamwork and behaviours that reinforce the strategic intent.
- contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the team or work unit 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

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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.

The Research Associate in Marine Biology employed to work on this project will be required to successfully apply for "Baseline" security clearance with the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency. As such, the scientist will need to be an Australian citizen.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Associate in Marine Biology is accountable for:

- Coordinating, planning and delivering project tasks in collaboration with industry partners.
- Designing environmental and biological monitoring plans relevant to the project's research goals.
- Conducting fieldwork, laboratory analyses and data analyses to achieve the project's milestones.
- Preparing interim and final project reports and producing high-quality research outputs, including publications and conference presentations.
- Generating new research ideas, reviewing the literature and participating in seminars and meetings.
- Collaborating on joint research projects and assisting with competitive grant applications.
- Contributing to ethical, innovative, high-quality research aligned with College research strengths.
- Supporting the supervision and training of postgraduate and Honours students when required.
- Establishing and maintaining research collaborations within the University, nationally and internationally.
- Undertaking occasional out-of-hours work and travel (rural SA, interstate, or overseas) when required.
- Performing other duties consistent with the position's classification as directed by the Supervisor or University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD in Marine Biology or Marine Genomics or Marine Microbiology or Bioinformatics.
- A growing research profile in marine microbial ecology or metagenomics.
- Technical expertise in molecular techniques, bioinformatics, metagenomics and/or marine microbial ecology research.
- A developing track record of publications in reputed refereed journals and presenting at conferences.
- Research experience in biofouling, marine invasive species or marine biofilms, including some taxonomic skills, is desirable.
- Technical expertise in data analysis (e.g. Matlab/R/python) and experience with Linux computing are highly desirable.
- Capability to deliver project targets on time.
- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and the capacity to collaborate and engage with diverse stakeholders and industry partners.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.

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