

Position Description – Professor

Updated 20 February 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College/Portfolio	College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Organisational Unit	Optometry
Supervisor (Title)	Dean, People and Resources (or Delegate)
Classification	Academic Teaching & Research (Balanced) Level E
Employment Type	Continuing, Full-Time

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>The Professor will, under broad supervision, provide academic leadership in research, teaching and community engagement in the discipline of Optometry. The position will provide outstanding leadership in the study of Optometry. The incumbent will have a track record of grants, either Category 1 or others.</p> <p>The Caring Futures Institute was established in 2019 and is Australia's first fully dedicated research centre for the study of self-care and caring solutions leading to better lives, better communities, better care and better systems. The Caring Futures Institute is closely connected with community, consumers and carers, working closely with not for profit and private care sectors, government, and health and community services. Adopting a knowledge translation approach, the institute brings together researchers, consumers, and users of health and community systems to co-design solutions, using innovative methodologies, technology, health and social care economics, and disruptive solutions to have impact.</p> <p>The Professor will be able and willing to take a strong leadership role with Early Career Researchers and Middle Career Researchers. The Professor will advance the College in its reputation as a centre of excellence in education and research, both nationally and internationally, and advance the development of the discipline of Optometry.</p>

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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.

A Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check 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).

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 Professor is accountable for:

- Providing outstanding teaching using contemporary pedagogy, and a range of innovative delivery methods in the area of Optometry.
- Publishing high quality publications in Optometry and associated areas recognised as such nationally and internationally.
- Gaining external competitive research grants and contributing to growth in Flinders' research income.
- Supervising to completion Flinders research students including doctoral students in Optometry and grow the PhD cohort.
- Mentoring more junior academic colleagues in the College, especially academic staff in Optometry, including co-publishing, co-supervision and co-submission of external competitive grants.
- Contributing to or leading research on designated College and/or University themes.
- Providing administrative leadership as required including the Optometry. Teaching Program or the Research Section of Optometry.
- Contributing to administrative tasks as sought by the College leadership including play an active role in maintenance of academic standards and in the development of educational policy and curriculum within Optometry.

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- Providing leadership and expertise to foster collaborative links across the University, with industry/community and with other institutions as appropriate.
- 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, or equivalent qualification.
- Currently registered or eligible for registration with Optometry Board Of Australia and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).
- Hold and maintain a current membership with a relevant professional association.
- Demonstrated evidence of a distinguished and active track record of teaching expertise in Optometry at tertiary level, including a leadership role in international delivery and /or collaboration.
- Demonstrated evidence of innovation in teaching to support students in order to maximise their learning.
- Evidence of significant educational leadership relevant to teaching and learning in higher education and demonstrated experience leading innovation and inspiring excellence amongst colleagues.
- Significant experience in curriculum development and teaching methodology for topics and programs of study, including reviews and internal and external accreditation activities.
- Demonstrated experience with engaging and developing flexible methods to deliver teaching programs such as through e-learning platforms and other communications technologies
- A distinguished international reputation in research in an area aligned with the College's research strengths evidenced by sustained high quality publications and attraction of several competitive external grants.
- Demonstrated excellence in the supervision of honours and research higher degree students.
- Significant contribution to the discipline and/or profession within a relevant external professional domain and within a wider community context at local, national and international level.
- A demonstrated strong track record of establishing effective research collaborations with external national and international partners.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills, including the demonstrated evidence of the ability to develop, establish and maintain effective relationships with staff, students and industry.

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