

Position Description – Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering (Advanced Manufacturing)

Updated 9 June 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College	College of Science and Engineering
Organisational Unit	Engineering & Design
Supervisor	Dean, People and Resources (or Delegate)
Classification	Research (Academic) Level D
Employment Type	Continuing, full-time (Research only for the first 5 years of appointment followed by a continuing Teaching and Research position)

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>The Associate Professor will undertake research in Mechanical Engineering (Advanced Manufacturing). The position will provide leadership and vision in one or more of the key areas of the research of the College, in particular in setting the strategic research goals for the program, expanding the research program through the attraction of external grant and contract income and establishing its reputation on an international scale in alignment with the strategic directions of the College and University.</p> <p>The position will be responsible for strengthening research collaborations externally and internally and play a key role in the recruitment and quality supervision of higher degree research students. In addition, the position will be required to provide leadership and direction to staff and students in relation to research plans, developing successful research track records in strategic areas of research and providing feedback on individual grant applications and publications.</p> <p>The incumbent will be expected to supervise more junior staff as required.</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.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering (Advanced Manufacturing) is accountable for:

- Making an outstanding and distinguished contribution to research and engagement through original and innovative research, obtaining competitive external research funding and producing publications in high quality journals, at a sustained level, and delivering high quality presentations.
- Providing expertise and leadership in ethical, high quality and innovative research, mentorship to and development of early and mid-career researchers, and supervision of Higher Degree Research students.
- Leading and developing strategic planning and professional activities relevant to promoting research and identifying opportunities to expand and grow research income and publications.
- Undertaking a significant leadership role in the College/University in fostering research excellence and making a significant contribution to leadership at the national and/or international level in one of the following areas: robotics (cobotics and industrial robotics); design for manufacture and sustainability and circular manufacturing, which are strategically aligned with the Flinders Factory of the Future.
- Taking a lead role in identifying and obtaining external research income.
- Actively supervising and mentoring Higher Degree Research students.
- Providing leadership and expertise to foster strategic local, national and international relationships, collaboration and networks with a range of stakeholders including industry, government and other external organisations.
- Contributing to the management and administration of research in the College.
- Any other responsibilities in line with the level of the position as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.

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.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD or equivalent in an area of mechanical engineering and/or advanced manufacturing.
- An established international reputation of outstanding high-quality innovative and independent research and research impact in mechanical engineering that is relevant to advanced manufacturing in one of the following areas: robotics (cobotics and industrial robotics); design for manufacture and sustainability and circular manufacturing, and that is aligned with the Flinders Factory of the Future and the College's research strengths evidenced by sustained high quality publications as corresponding author and attraction of several significant competitive external grants.
- Evidence of a substantial and sustained research impact and proven ability to undertake an active leadership role in research activities e.g. citations and industry engagement.
- Demonstrated excellence in the supervision of honours and research higher degree students to successful completion.
- Significant experience in a senior academic or research leadership position with relevant research project management experience relevant to the research environment, including leadership of a large team.
- A demonstrated strong track record of establishing effective research collaborations with external national and international partners.
- High level of understanding of intellectual property and the commercialisation process in relation to a research environment.
- Demonstrated leadership skills, including the ability to establish and make effective contributions to leadership within the College, students and industry nationally and/or internationally.
- Demonstrated ability to mentor less experienced College Staff.