

Position Description – Professorial Research Fellow 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 E
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 Professorial Research Fellow will lead and undertake research in an area of mechanical engineering that is directly relevant to advanced manufacturing and that is strategically aligned with existing research undertaken in the College and University more generally.</p> <p>The position will provide leadership and vision in setting the strategic research directions and goals for the area, expanding the research area 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 engaging with industry, government and other external organisations, strengthening research collaborations internally and externally and supporting recruitment of international and domestic higher degree research students and research fellowships. In addition, the position will be required to provide leadership and direction to staff and students in relation to research plans, the development of successful track records in strategic areas of research and the provision of feedback on individual grant applications and publications.</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 Professorial Research Fellow in Mechanical Engineering (Advanced Manufacturing) is accountable for:

- Making an outstanding and distinguished contribution to research and engagement through original and innovative research, obtaining substantial competitive external research grant and contract income 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 in one of the following areas: robotics (cobotics and industrial robotics); design for manufacture and sustainability and circular manufacturing.
- Providing mentorship to and development of early and mid-career researchers, and supervision of Higher Degree Research students.
- Undertaking guest lecturing in areas of expertise to inspire and encourage students and colleagues to engage in further study and/or undertake research.
- Leading and developing strategic planning and professional activities relevant to promoting research and identifying opportunities to expand and grow external research income and publications.
- Undertaking a significant leadership role in the College/University in fostering research excellence and making a significant contribution to research leadership in the field at the national and/or international level.
- Taking a lead role in identifying and obtaining external research income.
- Actively supervising and mentoring Higher Degree Research students and early career researchers.
- 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.
- A distinguished 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 outstanding 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.
- An outstanding 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 high level leadership skills, including the ability to establish and make effective contributions to leadership within the College, students and industry nationally and/or internationally.
- Proven ability to mentor less experienced College Staff.