

Position Description – Research Fellow in Mental Health (Joint Health Command)

Updated 13 October 2025

POSITION DETAILS

College	College of Education, Psychology and Social Work
Organisational Unit	Psychology
Supervisor	Professor in Psychology
Classification	Research (Academic) Level B
Employment Type	Fixed-term, full-time

POSITION SUMMARY

The Research Fellow (Joint Health Command Mental Health) will undertake research studies that contribute to Defence's program of research in mental health and wellbeing (2023-2027). The Research Fellow will work under the broad direction of Professor Reg Nixon (Psychology, Flinders University) and closely with the Professor of Military Mental Health (PMMH) within the Directorate of Health Research (Department of Defence).

The key aims of the program of research are to prevent mental ill health through developing an evidence-based understanding of risk factors for mental ill health to inform the development of targeted and effective interventions and improve recovery by trialling evidence-based interventions for the treatment of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

In working with Professor Nixon, the PMMH, and the broader Defence research team, the position will contribute to stakeholder engagement, obtaining relevant research approvals, recruitment of participants, management of projects, analysis of data, assist in the preparation of reports, presentations and publications, and contribute to the dissemination and translation of research findings.

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.

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.

The successful candidate is required to hold Australian Citizenship and be able to obtain and maintain a security clearance at "Baseline" level.

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Fellow (Mental Health) is accountable for:

- Conducting studies as part of the program of research in mental health and wellbeing, collaborating with the research team to successfully deliver project milestones.
- Independently contributing to the planning and execution of research by obtaining organisational and ethical approvals to conduct research and assisting in the preparation of reports, presentations and publications.
- Recruitment of participants for relevant research studies.
- Database management and data analysis (SPSS, STATA, or similar).
- Playing a lead role in coordinating, planning and executing the project tasks required to collaborate with industry partners including communicating and disseminating findings through Defence.
- Independently contributing to ethical, high quality and innovative research and evaluation.
- Establishing and maintaining collaborations within the University and Department of Defence for the duration of the contract to improve research outputs.
- Some out of hours work (including weekends) may be required, including the ability to travel to Canberra and Defence locations around Australia.
- Any other administration and liaison responsibilities relating to the research studies as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD in Clinical Psychology or related mental health field.
- Demonstrated research experience in terms of high-quality publications and presentations at a national and/or international level.
- Demonstrated expertise in research methodology including experience adopting a systematic and programmatic approach to research.
- Demonstrated expertise in utilising cognitive models of psychopathology (e.g., PTSD, depression, social anxiety).
- Demonstrated experience in Project Management and delivering project targets on time.
- High-level statistical skills and demonstrated ability to set up and manage large databases.
- Evidence of translational research skills and adaptation of knowledge to context.
- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and experience in collaborating and engaging with diverse stakeholders and industry partners.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills.