

Position Description – Research Associate in Shark Ecology

Updated 24 February 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College	College of Science and Engineering
Organisational Unit	Natural Sciences
Supervisor	Professor
Classification	Research only Level A
Employment Type	Fixed-term, full-time

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>The Research Associate will be a key member of the Southern Shark Ecology Group and will support the group's various research projects with a focus on projects related to shark and ray ecology. We are specifically looking for someone with strong field skills and experience working with large marine predators.</p> <p>The Research Associate will also have opportunities to lead analyses and studies using existing BRUVS and acoustic tracking datasets and assist with co-supervising Honours and PhD students.</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
<p>The Research Associate in Shark Ecology will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and assisting in leading high-quality and innovative research field trips in shark ecology. • Analysing and writing-up of existing large BRUVS and acoustic tracking datasets. • Contributing to the supervision of research students. • Developing and maintaining strategic relationships and networks with a range of stakeholders including industry and professional associations and organisations.

- Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as rural SA, interstate and overseas travel, will likely be required.
- 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 significant progress towards completion of a PhD in applied marine ecology, applied marine science, environmental sciences or related area.
- Demonstrated evidence of a strong research track record (for career stage) in an area related to shark ecology including evidence of quality publications and attraction of significant external competitive grants.
- Coxswains certificate with experience driving boats >7 m.
- Experience handling and tagging large sharks.
- Divemaster (or equivalent) diving certification or scientific/commercial certification.
- Up to date CPR/oxygen provider certification, commercial diving medical, and first aid certification.
- Experience using and analysis data from BRUVS and acoustic tracking.
- Proficient in R and modelling (e.g., GLMM, GAMM, species distribution model).
- Demonstrated ability to undertake collaborative research and establish and maintain effective relationships with staff and industry.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.
- Demonstrated experience and successful track record in supervision of honours and higher degree students (Desirable).