

# **PRINCIPAL RESEARCH FELLOW**

## **DIMENSIONS OF POSITION**

The Principal Research Fellow will provide direction, management, and research leadership in engaging with the key themes of the DEHub project with an emphasis on tertiary and higher education contexts: Distance Education Learning, Distance Education Communities, and Distance Education Research and Evaluation, all with an emphasis on the higher education sector. These themes will be refined through the expertise of the position holder and in communication with international stakeholders such as JISC, SURF, Learning Federation, Education.au and Australian Flexible Learning Framework, AARNet and e-Framework for Research and Education. The Principal Research Fellow will be responsible for directing, managing, and undertaking research, securing grant and tender funding, and producing material to assist with steering the project, in association with key stakeholders, towards the goal of establishing vision, mission, and fully-conceived, achievable and agreed project plans for the future.

The research team will receive administrative and web programming support in developing a comprehensive website with information, resources, and interactive virtual spaces. The person appointed will also be responsible for the coordination and reporting of research activities undertaken by the research team.

The position reports to the Director of DEHub, and the appointee will provide support and advice to project team members. The appointee will work closely with other research team members, the Project Manager, and the DEHub Director in promoting the project's research outcomes and preparing for an international conference and colloquium planned with partner institutions and stakeholders for late 2010. This will represent one of the largest and most significant distance education events Australia has seen for considerable time.

## **POSITION OBJECTIVES**

The Principal Research Fellow will:

- Take the lead role in directing, managing, and conducting research as part of a team to assist in the refinement of the key themes of the DEHub project: Distance Education Learning, Distance Education Communities, and Distance Education Research and Evaluation.
- Manage delivery of project outcomes that contributes to the development of our vision and mission in the field of distance education.
- Contribute to the processes of research and strategic planning undertaken by the DEHub project members.
- Engage in consultation with stakeholders and partner institutions in the continued development of the key themes and in the communication of research results through publications and reports.
- Develop and assist in the implementation of action plans for the further identification of key issues, barriers, best practices, and opportunities for the use of technologies within the scope of the DEHub project.
- Together with the Project Manager ensure that research progress and activities are in accord with the projected outcomes of the DEHub project timeline.
- Supervise less senior research-only staff.
- Actively engage in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise.
- Take on limited administrative functions primarily connected with the area of research, such as attending at meetings associated with research or the work of the research team to which the research is connected and/or at departmental and/or Faculty meetings and/or membership of a limited number of committees.
- Provide advice within the field of the staff member's research to stakeholders and fellow staff members.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA – LEVEL D**

1. A PhD and/or other appropriate academic qualifications and experience relevant to the position.
2. A superior record of proactively seeking and gaining funding through research grants, tenders, and/or other sources.
3. Demonstrated ability to direct, manage, and lead research for externally funded projects.

4. An outstanding research record as demonstrated by a list of publications and/or other recognised professional and research activities relevant to the DEHub project: Distance Education Learning, Distance Education Communities, and Distance Education Research and Evaluation.
5. Demonstrated ability to undertake research for stakeholders, work within strict timeframes, and meet externally set deadlines.
6. Experience in research on and/or teaching in online and/or distance higher education environments.
7. Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team.
8. Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills including a demonstrated ability to consult, negotiate, and interact with staff, external organizations, and stakeholders.
9. Willingness to engage in and support the academic administration of the DEHub project commensurate with level of employment.
10. Excellent computer skills and experience in using a variety of systems and software.
11. Demonstrated understanding of, and commitment to, OH&S, Risk Management, Records Management, Quality Assurance and EEO principles as they relate to this position.

#### **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Demonstrated powerful networking skills with the higher education community and related groups on a national and international level (eg: UNESCO, Ausaid, ICDE).