Chair in Public Health

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES — FEBRUARY 2015
Appointment of

Chair in Public Health

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Introduction

On behalf of The University of Western Australia, I welcome your interest in the Chair in Public Health position.

The University of Western Australia has a long and distinguished history and a reputation for international excellence in teaching, learning and research. It combines the traditions of the world’s great universities with the vitality and excitement of innovative learning and research in a 21st century environment.

The University continues to build on its reputation for excellence and is a major research contributor in the medical and health, minerals, energy and agricultural sectors. These areas align with national research and innovation priorities and State goals and priority areas.

UWA’s School of Population Health has a reputation for teaching excellence and is committed to the discovery and communication of knowledge to improve human health.

The Chair in Public Health was established in 1994 and has made significant contributions to the health of Western Australians through quality public health research and education. The principal roles of the appointee will be to provide academic leadership in public health research, the translation of research findings into effective programs and to ensure high quality education in public health and preventive medicine.

This position provides an exciting opportunity for a suitably qualified person with a strong record of leadership and academic achievement and a proven commitment to excellence in teaching and research.

Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor
The University of Western Australia

The University of Western Australia – a member of Australia’s Group of Eight – combines the traditions of the world’s old and great universities with the vitality and excitement of innovative study and research in the 21st century. It is recognised internationally as an excellent teaching and research university, and a leading intellectual and creative resource to the community it serves.

The University of Western Australia is a high-quality research-intensive university with a broad and balanced coverage of disciplines in the arts, science and major professions. It is Western Australia’s oldest university, established in 1911, and currently has a student population of approximately 25,000.

The University has acquired an international reputation for excellence and enterprise and is regarded as one of Australia’s best research institutions. Its strong research culture sees it attract high levels of competitive research funding. At the same time the University places great emphasis on high quality in teaching and learning, and is committed to the development of innovative and responsive programs. It has focused on the teaching-research nexus, so that teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere of research scholarship.

The University’s high quality teaching and research ensure it remains the university of preference for Western Australia’s highest achieving school leavers, as well as attracting high-calibre undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the nation and overseas. The quality of the student population is extremely high by national and international standards.

The University is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of its academic staff and has strong strategic partnerships with industry, the professions and government. It operates in collaboration with other research intensive universities in Australia and around the world. The University of Western Australia graduates are highly competitive internationally, achieving success in higher study and in wide-ranging fields of employment. Many graduates have risen to prominence in leadership roles in industry, government, education and the professions, in Australia and internationally.

uwa.edu.au
The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences was established on 1 January 1994 following a review by the University of its system of governance, whereby the two separate Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry were combined into one academic and resourcing body.

The Faculty offers professional postgraduate entry-to-practice degrees in medicine, dentistry, podiatric medicine, pharmacy and social work and a range of postgraduate coursework and research courses in Public Health, Clinical Research, Dental Science, Health Professional Education, Clinical Pathology, Infectious Diseases, Rural and Remote Medicine, Neonatology and Child Health. The faculty also offers a range of undergraduate majors in the Bachelor of Science.

Staff, Students and Courses

The Faculty has approximately 405 full-time equivalent academic staff including 80 Level E professorial appointments and approximately 1000 adjunct and clinical staff who assist with teaching and research. The Faculty has many outstanding scholars of international repute who make a significant contribution to teaching and research within the University.

The Faculty has an equivalent full-time student load of 2675 enrolled in a range of undergraduate majors and graduate degree programs. Undergraduate majors in the Bachelor of Science are offered in Population Health, Aboriginal Health, Microbiology, Pharmacology and Pathology and offered jointly with the Faculty of Science in Biomedical Science and Genetics. There are 260 postgraduate students undertaking a PhD and 58 enrolled in a Masters by thesis and coursework. There are also 872 students enrolled in higher degrees by coursework (Masters level or clinical doctorates) offered in Medicine, Public Health, Dental Studies, Nursing, Social Work, Manual Therapy, Neurological Rehabilitation, Health Professional Education, Infectious Diseases, Rural and Remote Medicine and Podiatric Medicine.

Research

The Faculty has a strong research record, being consistently among the top ranked universities in Australia in attracting National Competitive Grant dollars per staff member. Specific information on the Faculty may be found at meddent.uwa.edu.au
School of Population Health

The School of Population Health is located on the Nedlands campus of The University of Western Australia and has approximately 80 teaching, research and support staff. The School makes core contributions to the education of medical students through the MD program and offers the sequence of units comprising the population health major in the Bachelor of Science. Additionally, a fully articulated range of postgraduate study options leading to a Master of Public Health and Entry to Practice Master of Social Work are offered.

Staff expertise in the core public health fields of epidemiology, biostatistics, health economics and health promotion provides rigour and depth in postgraduate public health degrees. Advanced study options in epidemiology, biostatistics and linked data analysis ensure that Master of Public Health programs offered through the School prepare graduates for future public health leadership.

The School also offers a number of higher degrees by research including Master of Philosophy (Public Health), Master of Advanced Social Work and Doctor of Philosophy. The School’s commitment to excellence in research training fosters the development of research skills as a special feature. There is a focus on providing a sound foundation in research disciplines to support the promotion of an evidence based approach to contemporary health and social problems and also to develop an understanding of the broader public health context. Research students are commonly supported through association with one of the many research programs and groups within the School. Current research areas include Health Services, Cardiovascular Epidemiology, Ecology and Health, Occupational Respiratory Epidemiology, Environmental Epidemiology, Nutrition and Health, Women’s Health and Social Work Innovation.

The Centre for Health Services Research and research groups within the School contribute to its ranking as one of the highest performing schools of public/population health in Australia in relation to competitive research funds and peer-reviewed publications per academic. The School’s researchers have strong collaborative links with many local, interstate and international research organisations and agencies. The School’s location within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and its proximity to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital provide immediate and varied opportunities for clinical collaborations.

The School was heavily involved in the pioneering of the WA Data Linkage System which has enabled high quality and highly relevant research to be undertaken within the School and collaborations develop nationally and internationally. The Consumer and Community Participation program, developed jointly by the School and Telethon Kids Institute remains a leader in innovation around community and consumer participation in research.

Further details of the School’s staff, teaching programs and research programs are available on the website sph.uwa.edu.au
Role, key responsibilities, selection criteria and conditions of employment

Role

The role of the Chair in Public Health is to provide a visionary perspective to the discipline, academic leadership in public health research, education and professional service.

The Chair will lead and conduct high quality research in the UWA School of Population Health into the causes and prevention of common health problems in Australia and in the translation of research findings into effective programs.

Key responsibilities

- Lead and conduct high quality health services research that is informed in part by needs and priorities of the major funder (WA Department of Health) i.e. policy and practice-relevant teaching and research;
- Lead and develop research in epidemiology based on high quality methodology;
- Actively seek and attract external funding;
- Provide postgraduate training in public health sciences via the MPH and PhD programs to enrich the health and related sectors in WA and nationally;
- Ensure that medical students, other health professionals and those seeking careers in areas related to health are adequately educated in public health and preventive medicine;
- Provide independent and expert advice to the WA Department of Health on public health matters;
- Develop collaborative partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, including other WA universities with interests in public health, as well as consumer bodies and national and international institutions;
- Ensure that the data sets and record linkage capacity that is unique in WA is not only sustained but enhanced to serve Department of Health agendas, to enable innovative research and to attract quality health researchers to WA;
- Train, support and mentor future health researchers, especially in the fields of population and clinical epidemiology;
- Advocate for public health, prevention, evidence based services (translation) and consumer participation.

Selection criteria

Qualifications, reputation and knowledge

- Recognition as an international authority in public health, epidemiology or a related discipline;
- Research doctorate in public health or other relevant discipline;
- Broad knowledge of public health and expertise in one or more relevant areas.

Research and scholarship

- Demonstrated research leadership and the ability to foster the research of groups and individuals;
- Demonstrated personal commitment and outstanding achievement in research in public health and in communication of the findings through publications;
- Demonstrated outstanding ability to attract research resources;
- Demonstrated ability to conduct collaborative research and to take responsibility for a research program;
- Outstanding record of achievement in attracting and successfully supervising postgraduate research students.

Teaching and learning

- Experience and demonstrated commitment to high quality teaching at all levels in public health;
- Demonstrated ability to carry a full teaching load, to prepare and deliver lectures and tutorials and to organise the teaching of a unit;
- Evidence of an active role in maintaining academic standards and in the development of educational policy and the curriculum.

Service

- Evidence of substantial service contributions within an institution, in policy development, management and administrative matters, including service on committees;
- Evidence of substantial involvement in the development of public health and related professional bodies within the community.

Other

- Evidence of a high level of interpersonal skills, verbal and written communication skills and teamwork and management skills;
- Ability to relate well to staff and students at all levels;
- Evidence of a commitment to equity principles;
- Knowledge of public health challenges in Western Australia (including rural and remote areas and Aboriginal Health).
Conditions of employment

The appointment will be for a fixed term of five years. An attractive and flexibly constructed remuneration package will include:

- Employer contribution to superannuation of 17%;
- Recreation leave of 20 working days per annum;
- Long Service Leave;
- Eligibility for Sabbatical Leave;
- Administrative Support.

In addition, reasonable assistance will be provided for relocation expenses for the appointee and dependents.
Western Australia and Perth

The resource-rich State of Western Australia is the economic powerhouse of Australia. Western Australia is the principal Australian supplier of natural resources and energy to international partners, including China, India, Japan, South Korea and much of South-East Asia. Western Australia’s diverse inventory of minerals and energy, as well as its agricultural and fisheries resources, account for 25 per cent of the nation’s exports and place the State at the heart of Australian economic growth and transformation.

Western Australia and its capital Perth occupy the same time zone as 60 per cent of the world’s population and the nations that promise the greatest economic growth of the 21st century. Western Australia is also Australia’s largest state, covering some 2.5 million square kilometres and 12,500 kilometres of coastline, including some of the most ancient landscapes in the world. The State’s population is matching the rapid growth of the economy and is over two million.

Perth is a cosmopolitan city, with wide ethnic and cultural diversity. The city centre is on the Swan River 12 kilometres from the Indian Ocean port of Fremantle.

The city enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with more hours of sunshine than any other capital city in Australia. Summers are hot and dry and the winters mild and wet. Perth’s world-famous beaches and rivers, extensive parklands and variety of restaurants and cafes provide a superb living environment. For more information see: tourism.wa.gov.au

Perth is well served with art galleries, theatres and cinemas and is home to the WA Symphony Orchestra, the WA Ballet and the WA Opera. The cultural highlight of the year is the Perth International Arts Festival, founded and owned by The University of Western Australia – uwa.edu.au/perthfestival

Western Australia’s five universities and wide variety of public and private schools, vocational institutions and English language colleges provide quality assured education with flexible study pathways and state-of-the-art facilities. Perth continues to build its reputation as a destination for international students seeking a quality education – studyperth.com.au
Thank you for your interest. If you wish to proceed, the following information will assist you with your application. Refer also to the selection criteria on page 6.

There are no specific application forms to complete. Your application must include the following:

- A covering letter or statement that clearly demonstrates the extent to which you satisfy each of the selection criteria;
- Evidence of the impact of your research beyond academia, such as through contributions made to economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life;
- A curriculum vitae providing personal details, qualifications, publications and work history;
- The names, and contact details, including email addresses of three referees who may be contacted for a confidential report. Please note that your permission will be sought before referees are contacted.

Please also note: If required, The University of Western Australia will sponsor your employment in Australia under the Employer Nomination Scheme.

Lodging your application

Applications must be submitted online at: jobs.uwa.edu.au/executive

Closing date

Friday, 10 April 2015

Enquiries and further information

For further information including details of remuneration and workload, please contact:

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Applications

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