What’s your legacy?

University of Western Sydney

Professor
Health and Physical Education
School of Science and Health

Candidate Brief
June 2014
The University

UWS is a metropolitan university serving the Greater West of Sydney – a diverse and growing region of economic opportunity and community aspiration, but one with a history of social and educational disadvantage. The future of the region will rely on rapidly increasing the educational opportunities and outcomes for its people as well as those who attend from overseas and other parts of the state. UWS is committed to making a difference to the lives of our students and the communities in which they live.

The University’s strategic focus is on educational innovation and exemplary teaching, and on research into local and global questions of greatest relevance to the current and future challenges of the region. In 2011 the Australian Universities Quality Agency again described UWS as a ‘university of the people’. It is often described by observers as a ‘university on the move’.

With over 40,000 students enrolled across its campuses, studying disciplines ranging from law to zoology, linguistics to medicine and business to forensic science, the University is a substantial and influential institution.

The University’s regional mandate sets it aside from many other Australian universities. This is articulated in the University’s founding legislation, which defines its responsibilities to its communities. The development of the University has seen it emerge from more than a decade of reinvention and renewal with a rapidly growing profile and reputation in the sector.

This development has been underpinned by a coherent University strategic plan (Making the Difference, 2010-2013), which has provided a firm foundation for a university that is growing in stature and is looked to for innovation, expertise and a distinctive set of institutional capabilities.

Region Profile

A growing community, Greater Western Sydney (GWS) covers some 9,000 square kilometres and is the third largest economy in Australia behind the Sydney CBD and Melbourne.

The region includes 14 local government areas, which together generate almost $90 billion in economic output per year. More than 150 of Australia’s top 500 companies are located within the region and its industries are growing at much faster rates than the national average.

With a population of almost two million, GWS has one of the most diverse multicultural communities in the world, including over 100 nationalities. GWS is also home to the largest urban Indigenous population in Australia, which includes the traditional Aboriginal groups Darug, Gandangarra and Tharawal.

The region is regarded as a capital for advanced education, creating a highly skilled and available workforce where two-thirds of workers hold postsecondary qualifications.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Government</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.02 million</td>
<td>14 local government areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.13 million</td>
<td>23 state government electorates</td>
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<td>Over 100 nationalities</td>
<td>7 federal electorates</td>
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<th>Economy</th>
<th>Area</th>
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<tr>
<td>Third largest in Australia</td>
<td>9,000 square kilometres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic output $95.6 billion</td>
<td>Sydney Olympic Park to Blue Mountains</td>
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<td>161,000 businesses (2011)</td>
<td>Unique flora/fauna environment</td>
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About the School of Science and Health

The School of Science and Health offers a range of courses and research strengths across the continuum from the health sciences to the biomedical and other science disciplines. Having the biomedical sciences, health sciences, and other sciences under the single umbrella of the School arose from a strategic intention to provide cutting-edge, integrated and contemporary learning and research experiences for our students.

This approach is strengthened further by a firm commitment to community engagement. Students are offered opportunities to work closely with their relevant communities in developing their professional skills, and in reaping the benefits of a challenging educational experience. Our research underpins the core activities of teaching and learning and allows us to create the evidence base required to train the next generation of professionals.

Teaching Areas

The School is educating tomorrow’s graduates in an environment that is contemporary, challenging, and adaptive to a rapidly evolving world. Our teaching programs are intrinsically interdisciplinary, and cover a broad range of professional and other disciplines in the science, biomedical science, and health science areas. These areas are underpinned by a strong focus on research and research-led teaching, which often involves partnerships with a range of external organisations.

Our programs include undergraduate degrees, honours degrees, combined undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, graduate-entry Masters programs, coursework Masters programs, and higher degree research programs (Masters and PhD).

Facilities

Our teaching and research facilities include state-of-the-art specialist teaching and research laboratories, a significant nanotechnology facility, sport and exercise science and human performance laboratories, contemporary science facilities, and the UniClinic, a modern clinical health teaching facility. Our students and researchers work with modern equipment in which the University has invested heavily in recent years.

Our Research

The School of Science and Health engages in research to advance fundamental knowledge, enhance professional practice, and to contribute to the broader development of our region, Australia, and internationally in the areas of science and health. In keeping with the research focus of the University, the School is committed to enhancing our region’s development and responding to the contemporary challenges in Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

The School’s research links directly with community and industry to help create solutions for the real world. Our staff and students have strong and meaningful collaborations with research institutes, public and private health organisations, industry partners, and community organisations.

The School’s research strengths are broad and include a range of disciplines ranked at, above, or well above world standard in the 2012 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessment. These include complementary and alternative medicine and plant biology (ranked well above world standard), ecology, soil sciences, and macromolecular and materials chemistry (ranked above world standard), and human movement and sports sciences, clinical sciences, analytical chemistry, physical chemistry, microbiology, and biochemistry and cell biology (ranked at world standard).

The School hosts the National Institute for Complementary Medicine, the Nanoscale Organisation and Dynamics Research Group, the Men’s Health Information and Resource Centre, and initiatives in Physical Activity and Health across the Lifecourse, Wildlife and Water Ecology, and Reaction Chromatography. These concentrations, in addition to our strengths in agriculture and our work linked to the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment places us firmly on the world stage.
Position Description

Position Title: Professor, Health and Physical Education
School/Office: School of Science and Health

Context

The academic structure of UWS comprises nine Schools, being organisational groups of staff and students which are located over several campuses. The Dean is responsible for the strategic development and management of the School’s academic offerings, research profile, services to students and enterprise culture, within the overall objectives and strategic and policy framework of the University.

The School is educating tomorrow’s graduates in an environment that is contemporary, challenging, and adaptive to a rapidly evolving world. Our teaching programs are intrinsically interdisciplinary, and cover a broad range of professional and other disciplines in the health science, biomedical science, and science areas. These areas are underpinned by a strong focus on research and research led teaching, which often involves partnerships with a range of external organisations. Our programs include undergraduate degrees, honours degrees, combined undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, graduate-entry Masters programs, coursework Masters programs, and higher degree research programs (Masters and PhD). All the health science programs combine strong interprofessional health competencies common to all health science professionals, and specialist discipline practice.

We seek a forward thinking, dynamic, and innovative scholar to take on the role of Professor (Level E) in the field of Health and Physical Education. Specifically, the appointee will have expertise and experience in one or a combination of the following areas, with an ability to also teach into general areas of health and physical education:

- Psychosocial and sociocultural aspects of physical activity, sport, and recreation across the lifespan
- Youth sports and recreation (including outdoor recreation)
- Pedagogy in physical education and sports coaching

The appointee will be based at the Penrith campus, but multi-campus teaching may be required.

Purpose/Major Responsibilities

The appointee will take on a leadership role in the Health and Physical Education program. The successful applicant will be expected to be involved in a range of academic activities, including development, coordination and teaching within the program. The appointee will be expected to conduct and lead significant research and supervise undergraduate and postgraduate students in their area of expertise. The appointee will work closely with research and teaching staff in the School of Science and Health and will be encouraged to develop collaborations and foster relevant relationships with other areas as appropriate, both internally and external to the University.

Reporting Relationships

The position reports to the Dean of the School of Science and Health, or nominee.
Scope

A Level E (Professor) academic is recognised as a leading authority in their relevant discipline area. A Level E academic is expected to exercise a special responsibility in providing leadership and fostering excellence in research, teaching, professional activities and policy development relevant to their discipline area. Professors are expected to play an active role in the maintenance of academic standards in the development of educational policy and of curriculum areas within the discipline.

Professors are expected to contribute to the strategic directions of the School, and are expected to contribute actively to the governance processes of the University.

Key Functions/Responsibilities/Duties

Education and learning

- Contribute to and provide leadership (where appropriate) within the Health and Physical Education program.
- Coordinate, prepare, deliver, and evaluate relevant teaching units to undergraduate and postgraduate students, including feedback and assessment.
- Participate actively in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and enhance the interactions between teaching and research to facilitate the transition of undergraduate students to Honours and postgraduate study.
- Ensure that the design, development, delivery, and assessment of programs and units, and the learning resources associated with these, are contemporary.
- Deliver relevant seminars and learning opportunities to other academic staff.

Research

- Actively participate in research and build a significant research team and research culture in areas relevant to health and physical education, with sustained successful competitive grant activity and collaboration across relevant health, medical, and other sectors.
- Undertake and lead research and supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate research students in collaboration (where relevant) with other academic staff.
- Publish high-quality research articles in high-impact journals.
- Prepare and submit quality internal and external research grant proposals that lead to sustainable research funding.
- Identify, attract, and develop quality research students to enhance the future of Health and Physical Education.
- Deliver research seminars within the School and wider University.

Other

- Leadership roles within the Health and Physical Education program and general leadership in the School.
- Facilitate and maintain good communication with staff and students.
- Participate in administration and attend meetings as required within the School and University.
- Actively pursue personal professional development, and provide opportunities for mentoring and development of junior staff.
• Contribute to relevant governance and professional bodies as leader and member, including the development and maintenance of effective working relationships with relevant State and National bodies.


Selection Criteria

• PhD or equivalent in an area relevant to health and physical education.
• Recognised health and physical education qualification.
• A broad-based knowledge of health and physical education and its applications.
• Demonstrated experience in quality teaching at tertiary level, including ability to facilitate learning in small and large groups, and experience in using contemporary methods of curriculum design, development, delivery, and assessment (including the use of e-learning tools).
• Demonstrated experience in the supervision of honours and higher degree research students (including doctoral students).
• Demonstrated experience in progressing research initiatives from inception through to publication. Evidence of a significant track record in achieving high-quality publications is required.
• Experience (individually or as part of a team) in writing successful research grant proposals, and in leading research teams.
• Evidence of experience in leadership roles.
• Demonstrated experience in meaningful community engagement and partnership initiatives.
• Excellent oral and written communication skills, including interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively in a team.
• A demonstrated understanding of the principles of equal opportunity, equity and work health and safety and the willingness and capacity to implement equal opportunity, equity and work health and safety plans and programs.
How to Apply

To apply, please go to the UWS Careers website careers.uws.edu.au and choose the individually listed position you would like to apply for.

You will need to respond to each of the Selection Criteria and submit your application using that link, as soon as possible.

Applications will not be accepted via email and candidates are reminded to address the selection criteria.

Closing Date
Candidates are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible.
Selection panel interviews will commence as soon as suitable candidates are identified.

Enquiries
Enquiries regarding the role should be directed via email to SOSHphysical@uws.edu.au

Enquiries regarding the application process should be directed to the UWS Staff Recruitment Helpline.

Telephone: 61 2 9678 7536
Email: recruitment@uws.edu.au