

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Research Officer



POSITION DETAILS

Position Title	Research Officer
Classification	HEW 6
Position Number	New
School/Office	School of Engineering
Division	Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Science

POSITION PURPOSE

The Research Officer supports the Australian Forest and Wood Institute funded Project team in the conduct of research focused on the use of timber in residential construction, with a particular emphasis on the application of noggings in the timber engineering industry. The role contributes across all stages of the research process, including experimental studies, data analysis, scholarly outputs, and support of student research activities. The position is outcome-driven, with performance assessed through regular review of progress against project milestones.

The role focuses on research related to noggings in residential timber construction and reports to the project team for research direction and performance assessment.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- 1. Research**
 - Undertake independent research activities within agreed project scope, applying advanced disciplinary knowledge to ensure research components are delivered efficiently, progressively and to a high standard.
 - Develop, manage and interpret research data (written, numerical and visual) for scholarly dissemination, including journal articles, conference papers and technical outputs.
 - Lead the preparation and submission of high-quality scholarly publications, including refereed journal articles and conference papers, in line with academic and project expectations.

2. Administration

- Contribute professionally to project coordination through participation in meetings with academic and industry partners, providing informed input on research progress and outcomes.
- Represent the research project in School and University meetings as required, communicating research activities clearly and constructively.
- Maintain accurate and comprehensive project and research records, ensuring compliance with University policies and project requirements.
- Contribute to the functioning of the School and University community through effective engagement in meetings and collaborative activities related to research.

3. General

- Maintain advanced disciplinary expertise through ongoing professional development and active engagement with contemporary research and industry practice.
- Contribute to the intellectual life of the School and University through scholarly presentations, seminars and conference participation.
- Build and maintain effective professional relationships with academic staff, professional staff and students to support research activities.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

1. **Tertiary qualifications in structural engineering** preferably a PhD in timber structures or residential timber framing.
2. **Experience in conducting research** and scholarly publications especially high-quality Q1 journals and refereed conference papers in the field of residential timber construction.
3. **Demonstrated strong understanding of experimental and research design** and methodology with qualitative, quantitative data analysis and finite element analysis software.
4. **Ability to perform high-quality independent research** and initiate credible ideas.
5. **Ability to work with relevant industry**, professional networks, agencies and organisations.
6. **Demonstrated ability to operate independently within a research environment** and to exercise initiative and judgement within guidelines of the discipline and University.
7. **Demonstrated ability to work independently** and as part of a team.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- **This position reports to:** Project Leader, Associate Professor Fidelis Mashiri
- **This position has no staff supervisory responsibilities.**
- **Key internal relationships:**
 - Lead investigator
 - Academic colleagues in the discipline group, School and University
 - Students
 - Director of Research
 - Dean and School Manager
- **Key external relationships:**
 - Partner institutions
 - Industry Partners
 - Industry Bodies
 - Professional Networks and Organisations

CHALLENGES

- Managing multiple research activities and stakeholder expectations while ensuring the delivery of high-quality and timely research outcomes.
- Maintaining professional relationships with industry and academic partners.
- Translating complex research findings on residential timber construction into practical and industry-aligned applications that support the timber industry and sustainable development goals.

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS

The University expects that all employees are aware of, and comply with legislation and Western's policies and procedures relevant to the position, including but not limited to:

- Code of Conduct
- Work Health and Safety and Wellbeing Management System
- Enterprise Agreement or Award
- Anti-discrimination principles, Equal Employment Opportunity and staff and student equity.

Approved by: Lead People and Culture Partner

Date: 30/04/26