

Psychometrician

A psychometrician/ psychometrist with a strong interest in educational assessment and/ or medical education is sought to assist with the development of new assessment processes associated with the training of medical doctors. This new, permanent, professional position is located within the Medical Programme Directorate of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland. There is a possibility of collaboration with the Faculty of Education so that hours could be negotiable (full time, part-time or job share), depending on applicant strengths particularly with test construction.

The person we are seeking will ideally have a higher degree with expertise in psychometrics, statistics and appropriate research methodology qualifications and experience with statistical packages and large databases. This position is a professional staff position which may suit someone concurrently involved in PhD studies or similar who has an interest in collaboration for academic research and publication.

The Medical Programme Directorate is a small, friendly, supportive team of both clinicians and professional staff, responsible for the administration of the medical programme. The office is located at the Grafton campus close to the Auckland domain with good motorway and public transport links.

Please refer to the job description below, and on the University of Auckland , New Zealand, website for more details.

The closing date for applications is 30 January 2012

Further enquiry to mpd@auckland.ac.

Job Description

Position Title: Psychometrician / Psychometrist in Medical Education Assessment

University of Auckland, New Zealand

The Medical Programme Directorate (MPD) provides for the medical programme - the management and administration of the curriculum and its vision, documentation, maintenance, improvements and the integration of new initiatives. The MPD also provides leadership and management of all relevant academic processes to implement the programme efficiently, actively contributes to the Faculty and its committees with reports and/ or evidence, as required and it communicates and liaises with all schools contributing to the medical programme.

This role will enable the MPD to operate, evaluate and modify its programme of assessment across all academic areas.

Date Prepared: November 2011

Reports to: A/P Warwick Bagg, Head of the Medical Programme

Primary Objective of the position: To be responsible for data analysis, psychometric analysis and quality control of assessment data from the medical programme and to ensure the effective delivery of summative and formative assessment reports to students, course leaders, MPD and other relevant stakeholders.

To support the implementation of progress tests as the main knowledge tests within the medical programme, including their maintenance, assistance with blueprinting, data analyses and reports.

Functional relationships with: MPD staff, Phase Directors, Educational Project Manager, Lecturers, Students, Administrative staff; Board of Studies members

Financial responsibility: Nil

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

- Efficiently implement and maintain the MBChB student assessment data management system for Progress Testing, including the database, software (ATLAS) and registry requirements, in liaison with a collaborative partner.
- Implement the data analysis and data quality procedures in consultation with external partners (e.g. Peninsula Medical School) and develop guidelines as required.
- Ensure data are properly handled and psychometrically analysed and comply with UoA university policies, ethics requirement and other relevant standards.
- Generate and provide appropriate assessment reports at student, course and cohort levels as required by MPD and the Board of Studies.
- Facilitate the implementation of the Progress Tests within the MBChB programme, particularly in terms of supporting standard setting, test reliability and validity and items quality checks.
- Model the effect that any changes to assessment will have on student progression, including developing a running simulations.
- Regularly communicate with MPD, Educational Project Manager, Phase Directors and other relevant staff to ensure assessment databases, analyses and reports meet their needs.
- Maintain the manuals needed to support the implementation of progress testing.
- Support and collaborate with academic staff with psychometrics analyses of assessment for research purposes.
- Carry out the regular administrative tasks required from MPD academic staff.
- Support other staff within the MPD to facilitate successful implementation of assessments schedules within the MBChB .

Person Specification

Education and Qualifications:

- A higher degree in Psychology, Education, Health or Medical sciences with expertise in psychometrics, statistics and appropriate research methodology qualification(s).

- An interest in pursuing a higher degree is desirable.

Training, Skills & Knowledge: Essential

- Experience with large databases, preferably within medical or clinical context.
- Expertise with relevant advanced statistical analysis packages (e.g. SPSS) and spreadsheets.
- An ability to work with new software packages.
- Ability to create written reports that communicate results clearly.

Desirable

- Experience in educational assessment research in higher education.
- Knowledge of educational measurement theory
- An interest in collaboration with academic staff for research publications in relevant fields.

Personal Qualities:

- Strong interest in educational assessment and/or medical education.
- Common sense and 'can do' approach to problem solving.
- Open minded and adaptable.
- Team player with sound interpersonal skills.
- Strong commitment to new assessment approaches such as progress testing.
- Ability to work independently.
- Sound ethical behaviour.

Competencies:

- Committed to making progress towards achieving goals.
- Has as a logical approach to tasks and able to apply best methodologies that are practical, feasible and acceptable.
- Results driven – is well organised & delivers results consistently.
- Problem solving – tackles problems systematically & finds creative and effective solutions.
- Communication – is a clear and concise communicator.
- Customer service orientated – has a high customer focus.
- Building teams and valuing people – ability to support highly performing teams.