

## Position Description

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Position title: Senior Academic Advisor

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Division: Education

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Location: Camberwell | Hybrid

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Reports to: General Manager, Education

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EFT: Part-time, 0.6 – 0.8 FTE

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Approved by: CEO January 2025

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### About us

APA is proud to be a 5-Star Employer of Choice, Winner of the 2022 Association of the year award and have a vibrant and inclusive working culture that is underpinned by our core values:

Accountability | Excellence | Collaboration | Courage | Respect.

The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) is the peak body representing the interests of more than 33,000 physiotherapists in Australia. It does so by advocating for access to quality physiotherapy services, providing leadership in the wider health landscape, creating lifelong information and learning opportunities for members, and working with stakeholders to support members' interests.

The Australian College of Physiotherapists (ACP) is a part of the APA and was inaugurated in 1971. It was established for the training of clinical specialists and advancing excellence in the practice of physiotherapy. The College now represents the leaders in clinical practice, research, management and academia.

The APA provides a variety of employee benefits:

- 3 extra days of leave at the end of the year
- a mental health day
- hybrid working environment
- savings on a range of corporate partner products
- access professional development opportunities
- service awards at 5, 10, and 15 years of service
- ...and lots more.

## About the role

The APA provides comprehensive, flexible and globally recognised education opportunities for physiotherapists, supporting their practice excellence and career progression.

This senior advisory role provides expert academic and strategic guidance across APA's Education portfolio, ensuring educational programs and pathways are conceptually sound, strategically aligned, and responsive to professional and accreditation standards.

The Senior Academic Advisor offers high level input into education strategy, curriculum and assessment design, educational frameworks and career pathway development. They advise on the academic integrity of the Specialist Training Program, Fellowship programs, Titling pathways and broader career progression initiatives, ensuring consistency with national and international standards.

Key responsibilities include contributing to the development of education strategies, advising on new and existing frameworks (e.g., competency frameworks and assessment strategies), and supporting stakeholder engagement to enhance APA's education offerings. The role also provides academic expertise to critical projects, such as accreditation processes and the integration of professional development within career pathways.

## Key stakeholders

- APA Staff
- APA Board
- National Advisory Council
- College Council and Standing Committees
- Australian Physiotherapy Council
- Education committees
- Program facilitators and learners

## Key responsibilities

- **Academic Guidance and Strategy:** Provide expert advice on the conceptual development and implementation of education strategies, frameworks and career pathways that align with the APA's education and organisational goals
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Advise on and support engagement with academic, professional and industry stakeholders to ensure educational offerings are contemporary, high quality and aligned with professional needs

- **Program and Framework Development:** Contribute to the design and refinement of educational programs, career pathways and foundational frameworks that support effective learning, recognition and assessment practices
- **Curriculum and Assessment Design and Development:** Provide academic expertise in designing, evaluating and refining curricula and assessment methodologies to uphold educational rigour, competency standards and accreditation requirements
- **Faculty and Staff Support:** Offer guidance on professional development opportunities for faculty and staff fostering excellence in teaching, mentoring, and assessment practices
- **Quality Assurance and Accreditation:** Support the alignment of educational programs and policies with national and international accreditation requirements, ensuring governance and compliance with best practice
- **Academic Excellence and Innovation:** Promote a culture of continuous improvement, academic integrity, and innovation in physiotherapy education through evidence-based evaluation, data and feedback
- **Other Duties as required:** Responsibilities may evolve as APAs education strategy develops, requiring adaptability and a proactive approach.

## About you and Selection Criteria

### Education and experience:

- Current registration with the Australian health practitioner regulatory agency in the discipline of Physiotherapy without conditions
- Relevant post graduate qualifications in education or an equivalent field
- Minimum of 10 years of experience in physiotherapy education, with at least 5 years in an academic education leadership role with a demonstrated track record in program design; curriculum and assessment development; and educational administration
- Recognised leadership and experience in a field of physiotherapy practice
- Experience with professional accreditation processes and quality assurance frameworks in physiotherapy education
- Proven expertise in teaching, curriculum innovation, and scholarly contributions to physiotherapy education
- Highly developed interpersonal, teamwork and negotiating skills with the ability to collaborate effectively with education team members, senior executives, industry partners, and external bodies

#### Skills:

- Strong and strategic leadership with a passion for advancing physiotherapy education and clinical excellence through innovation
- Exceptional communication and stakeholder engagement skills with the ability to build strong relationships and drive collaboration across diverse groups
- Comprehensive understanding of physiotherapy education trends and challenges in Australia and Internationally
- Strong analytical and problem-solving abilities, with the capacity to translate insights into effective learning solutions
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, embedding inclusive practices into education programs and leadership approaches.

#### Highly Desirable:

- Doctorate (PhD) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
- Physiotherapist who has achieved Titling and or Specialist pathway recognition and other APA career professional development pathways and programs

#### Personal attributes:

- Strategically minded with the ability to anticipate challenges and opportunities in education and professional development
- Creative and solutions focussed, bringing fresh thinking to curriculum design, delivery and learner engagement
- Excellent leadership and influencing skills
- Collaborative and inclusive, valuing diverse perspectives and bringing people along the journey
- Able to work autonomously while maintaining high levels of accountability and teamwork.