

Careers in the area of Research and Tertiary Education

Rod Snow is Professor of Exercise Physiology and Deputy Head of the School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences at Deakin University. He leads the Skeletal Muscle and Tendon Health research group within the Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research and leads the Exercise and Sports Science discipline within the school. He has taught undergraduate and post-graduate students for the past twenty years and has published over seventy scientific papers in the discipline area of exercise metabolism and sport science.

Interview

What are the main types of careers in the Research and tertiary education area?

The main careers in research range from a role as a research assistant to a role leading a major research group funded by major research grants and industry. To become a research assistant an appropriate Honours degree would be a pre-requisite. To become a research leader a PhD is required followed by several years of post doctoral training to develop a significant publication track record that will enable successful application for research fellowships and grants.

To become a university academic a PhD is highly desirable coupled with some teaching experience.

What are the main responsibilities involved in the above careers?

University academic responsibilities include teaching (both undergraduate and postgraduate students), research and service. Service includes to the university, profession and community.

Researchers major roles include applying for funding, conducting research projects and disseminating research findings via publications and conference presentations.

Who are your colleagues/clients?

Colleagues include fellow university staff members and those from other institutions. My clients are undergraduate and postgraduate students, some community groups and industry.

What are the highlights?

My career highlights include discovering new knowledge and working with enthusiastic and dedicated academics and students who always keep life hectic and interesting.

Advice for students who are interested in working in the area of research and tertiary education

To work in tertiary education or research you need to be passionate and prepared to go the extra mile. It is intellectually rewarding but demands a large chunk of your time and energy. You need to work with excellent supervisors on strong research projects that give you highly relevant skill sets. Finally you need to find excellent professional role models so that you can avoid the pitfalls and make every post a winner!