
Dr Gary Dennis BExSc (Hons) PhD

Application of Interest

Senior Project Officer (Health and Ergonomics)

Please accept my application for the position of Senior Project Officer in the Occupational Health Unit of the Department of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. As part of this application please find attached seven pages which include:

- A brief overview of my career
- A response to the selection criteria
- Curriculum Vitae

If you require any further information regarding this application please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, facsimile, email or addressed correspondence at:

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Brief Career Summary

Since 2003 I have been employed as a Lecturer and Senior Research Officer with the School of Human Movement Studies at The University of Queensland, teaching primarily in the fields of biomechanics and ergonomics. During my time at The University of Queensland I have (and continue to) convened and lectured both undergraduate and postgraduate courses which include; Biomechanics and biomaterials, Biophysical foundations of human movement, Functional anatomy and biomechanics for sports coaches, Research skills and Advanced ergonomic tools and techniques. My dedication to effective and innovative teaching has been reflected by the official student evaluations of these courses, which have placed me as one of the leading lecturers within the School of Human Movement Studies. As part of my academic commitment within the school I have also supervised a number of students in postgraduate studies.

As well as my position within the school as a Lecturer I concurrently hold a Senior Research Officer position, which involves extensive industry based research with the mining, manufacturing, construction and transport industries. This collaborative research with colleagues from both within and outside the university has led to numerous international publications and an extensive number of presentations at conferences and invited industry workshops. In addition to this research I currently professionally consult within the coal and metalliferous mining, manufacturing, entertainment, sports, transport, contraction and livestock industries.

Prior to my current position with The University of Queensland I was a Lecturer at Griffith University in 2002 and 2003, in Biomechanics, Bioinstrumentation and Biophysics. During this time at Griffith University my research focused on spinal mechanics and a measure of occupational injury risk, which led to numerous publications in internationally refereed journals.

My research abilities have grown out of professional engineering background at the University of New South Wales, where I developed excellent problems solving skills that focus on solution rather problem driven outcomes. Although a lateral thinker I continually focus on the 'big picture' whilst maintaining an eye for detail. I have excellent communications skills and affable yet professional demeanour, which enable me to explain complex or difficult concepts in an uncomplicated manner to people of all backgrounds. It is this combination of skills that I believe make me an ideal candidate for the current position that requires innovative and applied investigative industry based ergonomic research.

Selection Criteria

Brief address of the four selection criteria as given in the position description:

1. Demonstrated high level ability to function effectively in a team environment within a project management framework.

I have worked extensively with team environments on numerous ergonomic projects both within the University system and as an external contractor. Examples of team projects that I am currently working on include:

- Operating as the team leader and chief research investigator of an MLA (Meat and Livestock Australia) funded 'Cobotics' project. As part of this project advanced 3D modelling of boning tasks is being undertaken with the view to designing and construction ergonomic robotic boning assisted devices.
- Operating as the principle investigator in partnership with Ass. Prof. Robin Burgess-Limerick (The University of Queensland) to implement and analyse a participative ergonomic project for QR (Infrastructure Services Group) across the rail services sector of Queensland.

2. Demonstrated ability to undertake and manage research, data analysis and related activities in health and ergonomics projects.

My doctoral research involved research that required innovative and in-depth data collection, analysis and reporting on an ergonomic project designed to investigate the relative risks associated with spinal loading during various team lifting scenarios. Since completing my doctoral degree I have undertaken extensive ergonomic research, particularly in the mining, manufacturing, civil construction and entertainment industries. During much of this research I have been working as the project manager as well as research investigator.

3. Demonstrated high-level interpersonal skills, including oral and written communication, and consultation skills, particularly as these apply to developing and maintaining effective relationships with external and internal stakeholders and project partners as evidenced by:
 - Preparation of technical reports, briefs and correspondence;
 - Organising industry workshops to deal with significant health and ergonomics issues; and
 - Presenting technical information in public forums.

I have a very high level of both oral and written communication skills. In fact, I am currently teaching the research and presentation skills course in the School of Human Movement Studies at The University of Queensland. I have presented at numerous international conferences and at invited seminars, as well as a countless number of lectures for which I have been recognised in teaching awards. Since submitting my doctoral thesis, which was recognised by the reviewers as very well written, especially with respect to the clarity and the conciseness of the document, I have published extensively in numerous internationally peer reviewed journals. I have also published a variety of technical reports for various industry partners, including the PECivCon Handbook for the Department of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, which is currently in the final stages of review with the department. As part of these aforementioned projects, I

have had to organise and run countless workshops at various corporate levels and maintain effective working relationships with all stakeholders, from the workers actually performing the ergonomic tasks under review right through to the corporate management teams that employed me and/or my company to undertake the project.

4. Demonstrated ability to manage and prioritise workload and work with minimal supervision.

Whether projects were/are operating through the university's research systems or if they were undertaken as part of an external consultancy arrangements all the ergonomic projects I have/am currently involved with require that I manage my time to ensure that all contracts are fulfilled to the satisfaction of the clients. As the owner/operator of my own company I feel confident in my ability to work without supervision and to prioritise workload.

Curriculum Vitae

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Relevant Tertiary Qualifications

2003	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	Griffith University, Australia
1997	1 st Class Honours (BExSc (Hons))	Griffith University, Australia
1996	Bachelor of Exercise Science (BExSc)	Griffith University, Australia

Recent Employment History

2003 - 2007	Ergonomic / Biomechanical Consultant and Company Director With a history of professional consultation in the mining, manufacturing, construction, sports, entertainment and transportation industries. <i>(See Below for a list of companies that I have consulted to).</i>
2004 - 2007	Senior Research Officer The School of Human Movement Studies The University of Queensland
2003 - 2007	Lecturer The School of Human Movement Studies The University of Queensland
2002 - 2003	Lecturer The School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus
1997 - 2003	Tutor and Laboratory Demonstrator The School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science Griffith University, Gold Coast Campus
1994 - 2003	Software and Statistical Data Analyst Consultant Terminal One
1997 - 1998	Health and Fitness Consultant / Proprietor FIT4U

Professional Consultation

2003 - 2006 Ergonomic / Biomechanical Consultation to:

- Anglo Coal Australia Ltd
- Angus Place Colliery
- Australian Institute of Sport
- Australian Indoor Cricket Federation
- Australian Baseball Federation
- BMA Pty Ltd
- BHP Billiton Ltd
- BMD Construction Ltd
- Centennial Coal Pty Ltd
- Civdec Construction Pty Ltd
- Dartbrook Colliery
- Douglas Park Illawarra Coal
- Dreamworld Theme Park
- Excel Coal Ltd
- Gold Coast City Council
- Meat and Livestock Australia Ltd
- Metropolitan Colliery
- Nickelodeon Ltd
- QR (Queensland Rail)
- Siros Systems Pty Ltd
- Terminal One Pty Ltd
- United Colliery
- Xstrata Coal Ltd

Other Educational Training

2005 Certified Dartfish Trainer
1995 Certified level 1 Triathlete Coach (Triathlon Australia)
1994 Certified level 1 Sports Administrator (ASSA)
1992 Certified Fitness Leader (ACPHER)
1990-93 Bachelor of Chemical Engineering (UNSW) BCE

Awards and Distinctions

2002 Postgraduate Outstanding Achievement Award (GCAP)
1999 Australian Postgraduate Award (Commonwealth Government)
1994 Griffith University Blue (Griffith University)
1989 Queen Scout Award (Scouting Association, Australia)
1986-90 Duke of Edinburgh Awards (Bronze, Silver & Gold)

Professional Body Memberships

2003 – 2007	Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA)
2003 – 2007	International Ergonomics Association (IEA)
2001 – 2006	International Society of Biomechanics (ISB)
2001 – 2006	Australia and New Zealand Society of Biomechanics (ANZSB)
1999 – 2005	Gold Coast Association of Postgraduates (GCAP)
1996 – 2007	Golden Key International Honour Society
1996 – 2007	Griffith University Alumni Association

Publications

List available upon request

Referees:

- **Associate Professor Robin Burgess-Limerick PhD**

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- **Lindsay Shorley (Group Safety Facilitator for ISG – QR)**

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