# Position Details

## CSIRO Early Research Career (CERC) Postdoctoral Fellowship– CSOF4

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| The following information is for applicants | |
| Advertised Job Title | CSIRO Postdoctoral Fellowship in Soft Robotics |
| Job Reference | 97366 |
| Tenure | Specified Term of 3 years  Full-time |
| Salary Range | AU$96,329 to AU$105,517 pa (pro-rata for part-time)  plus up to 15.4% superannuation |
| Location(s) | Pullenvale, QLD |
| Relocation Assistance | Will be provided to the successful candidate if required |
| Applications are open to | All Candidates |
| Position reports to the | Team Leader – Robotic Design |
| Client Focus – Internal | 100% |
| Client Focus – External | 0% |
| Number of Direct Reports | 0 |
| Enquire about this job | Contact Josh Pinskier via email at josh.pinskier@csiro.au |
| How to apply | Apply online at <https://jobs.csiro.au/>  Internal applicants please apply via **Jobs Central**  If you experience difficulties when applying, please email [careers.online@csiro.au](mailto:careers.online@csiro.au) or call 1300 984 220. |

**Acknowledgement of Country**

CSIRO acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, sea and waters, of the areas that we live and work on across Australia. We acknowledge their continuing connection to their culture and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. View our [vision towards reconciliation](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/Indigenous-engagement/Reconciliation-Action-Plan).

**Child Safety**

CSIRO is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our activities and programs. View our [Child Safe Policy](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/policies/child-safe-policy).

### Role Overview

**CSIRO Early Research Career (CERC) Fellowships** provide opportunities to scientists and engineers who have completed their doctorate and have less than three years relevant research experience. These Fellowships aim to develop the next generation of future leaders of the innovation system through:

* A differentiated career development program to deliver capability excellence and breadth across all facets of the national innovation system;
* Research training via strategic research and development projects with a clear focus that will deliver real impact through science and engineering excellence;
* An innovative culture supporting the development and demonstration of original thinking and expertise leading to peer-recognition; and
* Opportunities to develop skills and experience in collaborative research teams to effectively work within national and global multi/transdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder environments.

CERC Fellows **are appointed for three years or full time equivalent.**

Australia’s prized Great Barrier Reef is in decline and threatened by climate change and regular mass coral bleaching events. To address this, we need a new generation of lifelike soft robots to swim amongst and replant coral.

Through this project the CERC fellow will design, prototype and deploy multifunctional morphing robots for reef regeneration. Using cutting-edge machine learning, 3D printing, and computational modelling, the fellow will develop a new class of multifunctional soft robots, specifically targeted towards monitoring and remediation of coral reefs. They will create new, highly functional morphologies (structure, shape, and material composition) for soft reef robots, and contribute to the growth of this exciting research area.

The CERC Fellow will be supported in bringing their designs to reality by our excellent engineering teams, and on-site 3D printing, testing, and characterisation facilities including state of the art automated testing systems and an onsite testing pool. They will have access to world-leading experts in Soft Robotics, 4D Printing, Marine Biology and Coral Generation to help bring their ideas to life. They will have the opportunity to deploy prototypes in the field, at sites including the Great Barrier Reef, as part of CSIRO’s ongoing research and rehabilitation missions.

**Who are we:**

CSIRO Robotics is one of the leading robotics and autonomous systems research labs in the world, based in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

We develop [foundational and applied research](https://research.csiro.au/robotics/research-areas/) for a broad range of domains including; agriculture, advanced manufacturing, mining, biodiversity and biosecurity, environmental research and monitoring, cultural heritage and online learning. Our systems provide scientific, social and economic benefits through cutting-edge science, deeper understanding of natural and built environments, increased productivity and human safety, and augmentation of human capabilities.

With approximately 90 people, our teams are comprised of Research Scientists, Post-Doctoral Fellows, Engineers, PhD & Masters Students and Industrial Trainees.

We are one of the founder members of the [Sixth Wave Alliance](https://research.csiro.au/robotics/sixth-wave-alliance/) that evolved into the [Robotics Australia Group](https://www.roboausnet.com.au/about), an Australian robotics alliance created to integrate all the key robotics research organisations and industry partners in Australia, providing a framework to enable a high level of R&D collaboration among the partner institutions, leveraging existing programs and investments.

### Duties and Key Result Areas

Under the direction of senior research scientists and engineers, this CERC Fellow will:

* Designing new soft robotic systems, combining state of the art techniques across soft robotics, generative design, and machine learning.
* Producing high quality scientific and/or engineering papers suitable for publication in high quality journals and for presentation at top ranked international conferences.
* Carrying out innovative, impactful research of strategic importance to CSIRO that will, where possible, lead to novel and important scientific outcomes.
* Presenting your work to a wide variety of audiences and actively engaging in outreach activities.
  + Carry out innovative, impactful research of strategic importance to CSIRO that will, where possible, lead to novel and important scientific outcomes.
  + Recognise and exploit opportunities for innovation and the generation of new theoretical perspectives, and progress opportunities for the further development or creation of new lines of research.
  + Utilise design thinking methodology to plan and prepare research proposals, and apply non-academic impact methodology to research projects.
  + Carry out research investigations requiring originality, creativity and innovation.
  + Record, manage, and analyse data/information using relevant domain data science techniques.
  + Proactively undertake development to grow effective researcher capabilities to support career goals.
  + Adhere to the spirit and practice of CSIRO’s Values, Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment procedures and policy and diversity initiatives.
* Other duties as directed.

The CERC Fellow learning, development and training programis developed between the CERC Fellow and their CSIRO supervisor. The program will focus on enhancing the Fellow’s capabilities to the level expected of an independent researcher and will include on-the-job and course-based development encompassing:

* Discipline-specific techniques and protocols
* Professional growth
* Project management
* Communication and influencing skills
* Working and collaborating with others

## **Selection Criteria**

#### Essential

*Under CSIRO policy only those who meet all essential criteria can be appointed.*

1. A doctorate (or will shortly satisfy the requirements of a PhD). The doctorate must be in a relevant discipline area, such as Soft Robotics, Computational Design, Mechanical/Mechatronics Engineering, Computer Science, Physics or Mathematics.

Please note: To be eligible for this role you must have **no more than 3 years** (or full time equivalent) of relevant research experience.

1. Demonstrated experience in conducting research activities in a relevant topic area, including, but not limited to, Soft Robotics, Marine Robotics, Machine Learning (e.g., Bayesian, Evolutionary, sim2real), Generative Design
2. Demonstrated ability to work effectively as part of a research team.
3. High level written and oral communication skills with the ability to represent the research team effectively internally and externally, including the presentation of research outcomes at national and international conferences.
4. A sound history of publication in peer reviewed journals and/or authorship of scientific papers, reports, grant applications or patents.
5. A record of science innovation and creativity, including the ability & willingness to incorporate novel ideas and approaches into scientific investigations.

## **Desirable**

1. Experience translating concepts or simulations into functioning prototypes
2. Experience in/knowledge of the simulation of soft robots and flexible/deformable materials
3. Capacity to experimentally validate prototypes and concept designs
4. Interest in marine robotics, conservation and rehabilitation
5. Remain productive, positive and resilient in complex, ambiguous and/or uncertain environments.
6. **The ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary, potentially regionally dispersed research team, plus the motivation and discipline to carry out autonomous research.**

## **Required Competencies**

* **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Cooperates with others to achieve organisational objectives and may share team resources in order to do this. Collaborates with other teams as well as industry colleagues.
* **Influence and Communication:** Uses knowledge of other party's priorities and adapts presentations or discussions to appeal to the interests and level of the audience. Anticipates and prepares for others reactions.
* **Resource Management/Leadership:** Allocates activities, directs tasks and manages resources to meet objectives. Provides coaching and on the job training, recognises and supports staff achievements and fosters open communication in the team.
* **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Investigates underlying issues of complex and ill-defined problems and develops appropriate response by adapting/creating and testing alternative solutions.
* **Independence:** Recognise and makes immediate changes to improve performance (faster, better, lower cost, more efficiently, better quality, improved client satisfaction).
* **Adaptability:**Copes with ambiguity or situations that lack clarity. Adapts readily to changing circumstances and new responsibilities (which may include activities outside own preferences) in the interests of achieving team objectives. Recognises the need for and undertakes personal development as a result of changes.

To be appointed to this CERC Fellowship role within CSIRO, candidates will be expected to **commence employment by 31 January 2025**. Candidates are also required to have **submitted** their doctoral thesis at the time of commencement, as a minimum requirement, if PhD conferment has not been obtained. If a candidate has submitted, but their PhD has not yet been formally attained, the starting salary will be CSOF4-1 ($93,267). Upon CSIRO receiving written confirmation that the PhD has been awarded (within a six month period from commencement date), the salary will be increased to the negotiated level and the difference will be back-paid to the Officer’s start date.

Special Requirements

Appointment to this role is subject to provision of a pre-employment background check and may be subject to other security/medical/character clearance requirements.

* The successful candidate will undertake a pre-employment background check. Please note that individuals with criminal records are not automatically deemed ineligible. Each application will be considered on its merits.
* If the successful candidate is not an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident, they may be required to undergo additional security clearances, which may include medical examinations and an international standardised test of English language proficiency (i.e. IELTS test) - https://ielts.com.au/

**Our value proposition**

We want CERC Fellows to join our world class science, engineering and digital teams to solve big, complex problems that make a real difference to the future of Australia and the world.

You'll get to work with some of the most talented minds in their fields, not just in Australia, but in the world. At CSIRO, we spark off each other, learn from each other, trust each other and collaborate closely to achieve more than we could individually.

Find out more about our CSIRO Early Research Career (CERC) Fellow Experience Employee Value Proposition (EVP) [here](https://www.csiro.au/en/careers/career-opportunities/Postdoctoral-fellowships).

## **About CSIRO**

We solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. Visit [CSIRO Online](http://www.csiro.au/) and <https://research.csiro.au/robotics/> for more information.

CSIRO is a values-based organisation.  In your application and at interview you will need to demonstrate behaviours aligned to our values of:

* People First
* Further Together
* Making it Real
* Trusted