Research Fellow (Urban Environments)

Only Indigenous Australians are eligible to apply as this position is exempt under the Special Measure Provision, Section 12 (1) of the Equal Opportunity Act 2011 (Vic).

POSITION NO
0045671

CLASSIFICATION
Research Fellow Grade 1 (Level A)

SALARY
$69,148, - $93,830 p.a. (pro rata)

SUPERANNUATION
Employer contribution of 17%

WORKING HOURS
Part-time (0.5 FTE)

BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT
Fixed-term position available to 30 June 2020

OTHER BENEFITS
http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits

CURRENT OCCUPANT
New

HOW TO APPLY
Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, under ‘Job Search and Job Alerts’, select the relevant option (‘Current Staff’ or ‘Prospective Staff’), then find the position by title or number.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY
Dr Kirsten Parris
Tel +61 3 9035 8090
Email k.parris@unimelb.edu.au

Please do not send your application to this contact

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our websites: about.unimelb.edu.au/careers
Position Summary

We are seeking a Research Fellow to lead a project exploring Indigenous perspectives on biodiversity in urban environments. The Fellow will join the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub (CAUL) of the National Environmental Science Program (NESP). The NESP program is funded by the Australian federal government.

All urban environmental practices, research and policy occur on Aboriginal Country. No matter the focus, approach, personnel, timing or framing, all of these practices have an impact on the lives and futures of Indigenous peoples. A key challenge, then, is for urban practitioners and researchers to respond meaningfully to the expectations, rights and aspirations of Indigenous communities in urban areas. The CAUL Hub is seeking to meet this challenge within the realm of Indigenous perspectives of biodiversity in the city.

The Research Fellow will explore a range of research questions such as the significance of native biodiversity (including threatened species and ecological communities) for maintaining a connection to Country in the city; ways to improve the liveability and conservation value of urban landscapes by better incorporating Indigenous values and knowledge of biodiversity into urban design and management; and the utility of interdisciplinary collaborations between ecology, participatory art making and performance for engaging the broader community with Indigenous place, history and culture.

Reporting to Dr Kirsten Parris (School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences), the Research Fellow will work as part of a dynamic research team. This role will provide the opportunity for personal and professional growth and development while supporting research to address a key challenge in urban environments.

1. Key Responsibilities

A Level A academic is acquiring skills and building academic achievements (oriented towards the benchmarks).

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- Significantly contribute to research on Indigenous perspectives of biodiversity in urban environments, and work to develop research expertise with an increasing degree of autonomy
- Under the guidance and support of senior academics, contribute to and write papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals and/or reports, brochures and other written communications
- Contribute to a participatory arts-science event planned for 2019
- Contribute to the research goals of the NESP Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub
- Present research findings at internal research meetings and national and/or international conferences
- Liaise effectively with collaborators
- Engage with key stakeholders, including the federal Department of the Environment and Energy and the broader public through written reports, oral presentations and the media
- Lead or contribute to the preparation of research proposal submissions to internal or external funding bodies, as relevant
- Undertake administrative functions and obligations primarily connected with the incumbent's area of research
1.2  LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Actively participate at School meetings and with guidance, contribute to planning activities or committee work to support capacity building in the School/discipline
- Contribute to, or present research to the public to elevate public awareness of educational and scientific developments, and promote critical enquiry and public debate within the community where appropriate
- Where possible, contribute to the effective supervision of research support staff
- Effective demonstration and promotion of University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity

1.3  OTHER DUTIES

- Perform other tasks as requested by the supervisor or the Head of Department.
- Actively participate in the University Professional Development Framework
- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4

2. Selection Criteria

In order to be considered for interview by the Selection Panel, applicants must address all of the following Essential Selection Criteria in their application. For information on how to address selection criteria, please visit: https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/selection-criteria

2.1  ESSENTIAL

- Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline, such as Science, Environmental Science, Arts or a related field
- Research experience, including the capacity to plan, conduct and report on research, relative to career opportunity
- Expertise in field methods relevant to urban ecology
- Demonstrated ability to engage with relevant professional and industry bodies, and to foster collaborative partnerships
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including the ability to communicate with diverse audiences
- Excellent organisational and time management skills, with a proven ability to meet deadlines

2.2  DESIRABLE

- An Honours or Masters degree in Science, Environmental Science, Arts or a related field
- Research experience in urban environments
- Experience in engaging with the general public through citizen science, the arts, and/or the media
3. Special Requirements

- This position is only open to Indigenous Australian applicants
- This position will be based at the Parkville campus, but the successful applicant may be required to travel to, or work from, other sites and campuses.
- Overnight, inter-state travel and international travel may be required.

4. Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the University’s People Strategy 2015-2020 and policies that address diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people’s age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to strive for excellence and reach the targets of Growing Esteem.

5. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:
http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

6. Other Information

6.1 THE CLEAN AIR AND URBAN LANDSCAPES HUB

http://www.nespurban.edu.au

The CAUL Hub is a consortium in the National Environmental Science Program. This program, launched in late 2014, supports six research hubs undertaking environmental research of priority to the Department of the Environment and Energy. The mission of the CAUL Hub is to take a comprehensive view of the sustainability and liveability of urban environments.
Research expertise at the CAUL Hub covers air quality, urban ecology, urban planning, urban design, public health and green infrastructure, located at the consortium’s four partner institutions (the University of Melbourne, RMIT University, the University of Wollongong and the University of Western Australia).

6.2 SCHOOL OF ECOSYSTEM AND FOREST SCIENCES

http://ecosystemforest.unimelb.edu.au

The School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences (SEFS) is Australia’s premier research and education provider dedicated to the study of ecosystem processes, sustainable land management, and environmental social science in forest and other ecosystems, covering the full range from natural to highly urbanised systems. SEFS combines expertise in the biological and physical sciences with environmental social science to provide research and teaching of applied ecosystem science that is relevant to society, delivering innovative solutions to the environmental issues faced by a rapidly growing global community. Our work spans from molecular to ecosystem scales, from technology to sociology, and from city to wilderness.


As a School we provide leadership in applied sciences through our Postgraduate Coursework degrees, the ‘Master of Forest Ecosystem Science’ (MFES), the ‘Master of Urban Horticulture’ (MUH) and the ‘Master of Science (Ecosystem Science)’. Our Graduate Certificates and Diplomas in ‘Bushfire Planning and Management’, ‘Forest Systems Management’, ‘Garden Design’, ‘Arboriculture’ and ‘Green Roofs and Walls’ provide individuals working in industry with opportunities for intensive and career-directed learning and skills development.

As one of seven Schools within the Faculty of Science, SEFS operates from three locations:

- the University’s main Campus at Parkville;
- the inner-city Burnley Campus with a century-old tradition of excellence in urban horticulture, which today is a dynamic multidisciplinary research centre with a focus on green infrastructure, urban ecology, ecohydrology and forest science; and
- the regional Creswick Campus, the University’s specialist campus for forest science and the birthplace of forest education and research in Australia, which today also is home to significant plant and crop science initiatives of other Faculties.

Our extensive teaching and research facilities at all three campuses are complemented by a number of long-term field research sites including ‘Long Term Fire Effects Study Areas’ established in the 1980s, the Little Stringybark Creek urban catchment experiment, and a ‘Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network Super Site’ in the Wombat State Forest, close to Creswick, which represent a significant strength of the new School.

6.3 FACULTY OF SCIENCE

www.science.unimelb.edu.au/departments

The Faculty of Science was formally constituted in 1903, although science has been taught since 1854 when the first Professors of mathematics and natural science joined the
University. It is one of the University’s largest faculties with some 7,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, and has an annual budget in the order of $200M.

The Faculty of Science has a deserved reputation for the delivery of high quality teaching and research programs across a breadth of disciplines. The subjects and courses offered are integral to the quality of a significant number of the educational programs in other faculties. The Faculty has a long-standing and distinguished record of providing postgraduate education at the Masters and Doctoral levels and it has established strong international research and research education linkages within the USA, Europe and throughout the Asian region.

The Faculty is made up of seven Schools as follows: the Schools of BioSciences, Chemistry, Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, Earth Sciences, Geography, Mathematics and Statistics and Physics. The Faculty also has custodial responsibility for the Bio21 Molecular Science & Biotechnology Research Institute and Office for Environmental Programs.

The Faculty, through its Departments and Research Centres, is active in professional development, continuing education nationally and internationally, and in links to schools and the community.

6.4 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. With outstanding performance in international rankings, Melbourne is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The University of Melbourne is consistently ranked among the world’s top universities. Further information about our reputation and global ranking is available at http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/why-choose-melbourne/reputation-rankings.

Established in 1853, shortly after the founding of Melbourne, the University is located just a few minutes from the centre of this global city. The main Parkville campus is recognised as the hub of Australia’s premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide range of knowledge-based industries.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded. Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers.

6.5 GROWING ESTEEM, THE MELBOURNE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH AT MELBOURNE: ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT TO 2025

- Growing Esteem describes Melbourne's strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. http://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership

- The University is at the forefront of Australia's changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Curriculum. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In
moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

The University’s global aspirations seek to make significant contributions to major social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, the University’s research strategy Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025 aspires to a significant advancement in the excellence and impact of its research outputs. http://research.unimelb.edu.au/index.html#home

The strategy recognises that as a public-spirited, research-intensive institution of the future, the University must strive to make a tangible impact in Australia and the world, working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and building deeper and more substantive engagement with industry, collaborators and partners. While cultivating the fundamental enabling disciplines through investigator-driven research, the University has adopted three grand challenges aspiring to solve some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century. These Grand Challenges include:

Understanding our place and purpose – The place and purpose grand challenge centres on understanding all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on Australia’s ‘place’ in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and on our ‘purpose’ or mission to improve all dimensions of the human condition through our research.

Fostering health and wellbeing – The health and wellbeing grand challenge focuses on building the scale and breadth of our capabilities in population and global health; on harnessing our contribution to the ‘convergence revolution’ of biomedical and health research, bringing together the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences; and on addressing the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing by looking beyond the traditional boundaries of biomedicine.

Supporting sustainability and resilience – The sustainability and resilience grand challenge addresses the critical issues of climate change, water and food security, sustainable energy and designing resilient cities and regions. In addition to the technical aspects, this grand challenge considers the physical and social functioning of cities, connecting physical phenomena with lessons from our past, and the implications of the technical solutions for economies, living patterns and behaviours.

Essential to tackling these challenges, an outstanding faculty, high performing students, wide collaboration including internationally and deep partnerships with external parties form central components of Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025.

6.6 EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Another key priority for the University is access and equity. The University of Melbourne is strongly committed to an admissions policy that takes the best students, regardless of financial and other disadvantage. An Access, Equity and Diversity Policy Statement, included in the University Plan, reflects this priority.

The University is committed to equal opportunity in education, employment and welfare for staff and students. Students are selected on merit and staff are selected and promoted on merit.

6.7 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.