Senior Research Grants Officer

POSITION NUMBER: 0038372 and 0057755 (2 positions available)

PROFESSIONAL CLASSIFICATION: UOM 7 - $98,402 - $106,519 per annum (pro rata for part-time)

SUPERANNUATION: Employer contribution of 17%

WORKING HOURS: Full Time (1 FTE)

BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT: Continuing

HOW TO APPLY: Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, under Current staff or Prospective staff, select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff') and search for the position by title or number.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY: Anne Coco
Tel +61 3 8344 8265
Email anne.coco@unimelb.edu.au

Please do not send your application to this contact

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website: about.unimelb.edu.au/careers
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The University of Melbourne would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which our campuses are situated, the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples, the Yorta Yorta Nation, the Dja Dja Wurrung people. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet and learn was the place of age-old ceremonies, of celebration, initiation and renewal, and that the local Aboriginal peoples have had and continue to have a unique role in the life of these lands.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville 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. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The University of Melbourne employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded.

Find out more about the University’s strategy, ‘Advancing Melbourne’, at https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/advancing-melbourne

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER PORTFOLIO

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) Portfolio enables quality outcomes for students, staff and partners by delivering University-wide services and operational support to meet the organisation’s evolving needs and strategic goals. The portfolio also works in partnership with teams across the University to drive innovation, transformation and improved performance, within and across functions. It is responsible for functions relating to the University’s finances, property, technology, legal and risk management, student and academic support, research and innovation services, operational performance, business services and sustainability.

The COO Portfolio is comprised of seven sub-portfolios:

- Business Services
- Chief Finance Officer Group
- Legal and Risk
- Office of the COO
- Operational Performance Group
- Research, Innovation and Commercialisation
- Student and Scholarly Services
RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALISATION
Research, Innovation and Commercialisation (RIC) is the central facilitator of research funding in the University, taking advantage of the full diversity of research funding opportunities.
RIC operates University-wide across all ten Academic Divisions and Chancellery. At a high level our capabilities include:

- Proposal funding submission and post-award support including contracts and research accounting for a wide range of funders. Specialized services for larger schemes such as NHMRC, ARC, MRFF, CRCs and international programs.
- Business development, research marketing and communications, intellectual property management and technology transfer mechanisms in partnership with the investment community
- Strategic relationship development with industry partners
- Research ethics, integrity, governance and quality
- Training and development programs for academic and professional staff

We aspire to service excellence every single day and creating an innovative, positive culture where feedback is valued, success is recognised and the University comes first in decision-making. We value big thinking on a global scale, attention to detail and care about our researchers’ success, the personal development of our team members and ensuring RIC is a great place to work at the University.

Research Grants, Contracts and Finance (RGCF), within RIC, supports the submission of grant proposals to a wide range of funders (NHMRC, ARC, MRFF, other medical and Australian funders and an increasing number of international funders such as NIH, US DoD, etc.). RGCF supports Chancellery in managing and running internally funded research grants. In 2021, a large proportion of the $2.4 billion worth of research proposals was through RGCF.

RGCF supports the ‘contract to project set up’ part of research post-award, a wide range of non-financial research agreements and research variations. Where required, RGCF submits non-financial progress reports to funders on behalf of our researchers. RGCF also includes Research Finance providing Research Accounting and Post-award Finance Support.

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 Advancing Melbourne strategy that addresses 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 Advancing Melbourne.

**ABOUT THE ROLE**

**Position Purpose:**
The Senior Research Grants Officer will report either into the Idea to Proposal area or into the Contract to Output area of RGCS and will be expected to work flexibly across these areas. In the Idea to Proposal area, the position will focus on supporting academics to submit high quality grant proposals to a range of domestic and international research funding schemes. In the Contract to Output area, the position will focus on assisting academics with all aspects of post-award administration of research funding.

This Position will focus predominately on the Idea to Proposal area.

In both areas, the Senior Research Grants Officer will also liaise with research funders to plan, oversee and develop new workflows of complex tasks and provide high quality advice to stakeholders. In addition, the Research Grant Officer will be expected to work on organising seminars, co-ordinating with other areas of University administration, as well as data entry into research management systems.

The Senior Research Grants Officer will work closely with external parties, other teams within RIC, individual academics, Faculties, Chancellery and the University more broadly. The Senior Research Grants Officer will exercise a high degree of independence and mature judgement and liaise directly with University of Melbourne staff and external parties. They will need to maintain effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

To be successful in this role you will be passionate about exceptional service delivery with a proven record of influencing and engaging others. You must also be prepared to be flexible in your approach to work and able to work in a wide range of team environments. Your strong customer centric focus will ensure you build and maintain strong working relationships.
Reporting line: Manager, Research Grants: Either International or ARC & Domestic Grants
No. of direct reports: Up to 3
No. of indirect reports: 0
Direct budget accountability: none

**Key Dimensions and Responsibilities:**
Task level: Significant
Organisational knowledge: Significant
Judgement: Significant
Resource Management: Moderate

Operational context: The Research Grants, Contracts and Finance (RGCF) team provides support and advice for high-quality research grants and contracts support services with a focus on customer services to all University faculties, institutes, and affiliates. This includes the provision of specialist advice on all aspects of grants management from oversight of application and award processes through to reporting. The Senior Research Grants Officer will work closely with Manager-Research Grants, focusing on service excellence, process optimization and efficiency. RIC is based in open plan offices in the University’s Alan Gilbert Building.

OH&S and compliance: 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. These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for managers, supervisors and other personnel. Specific responsibilities for the role are available at [http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/](http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/).
Staff must comply with all relevant requirements under the University’s risk management framework including legislation, statutes, regulations and policies.

**Core Accountabilities:**

**Idea to Proposal**
- Provision of pre-award administrative grant support such as reviewing grant proposals prior to submission to ensure eligibility and competitiveness against scheme requirements and priorities taking responsibility for high quality outcomes to stakeholders
- Contribution to pre-award planning and preparation including the review, submission and acceptance of grants in cooperation with Faculties, other teams in RIC, COO Portfolio, Chancellery and external funding agencies under the general direction of an Idea to Proposal Team Leader.

**Contract to Output**
- Provision of post-award administrative support for funded research, taking responsibility for high quality outcomes to stakeholders.
- Negotiation (where necessary) and acceptance of research funding and post-award compliance
oversight of grants in cooperation with Academic Divisions, COO Portfolio), Chancellery, external research partners and external funding agencies under the direction of the Contract to Output Team Leader.

- Coordinating communication between research funders and researchers to ensure timely reporting on grant progress and final reports to funding bodies.

**General**

- Establishment and maintenance of excellent relationships with internal and external stakeholders.
- Provide high quality, impactful advice and information to academic researchers and Faculty research administrators.
- Assistance with the provision of reporting to senior management of the University.
- Co-facilitate training and information seminars for researchers and organise workshops, special programs, targeted services and other development activities.
- Enter research management data into the University’s research management system financial and system accurately and completely to enable accurate reporting and analysis of the University’s performance.
- Other duties as deemed appropriate by their supervisor.

**Selection Criteria:**

**Education/Qualifications**

1. Tertiary qualification with subsequent relevant experience, or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.

**Knowledge and skills:**

2. Excellent administrative and organisational skills with demonstrated ability to prioritise tasks, work to competing deadlines whilst maintaining a high level of attention to detail
3. Strong communication skills with experience in maintaining effective stakeholder relationships
4. Established in showing good judgement, initiative and ability to undertake tasks with minimum supervision, seeking advice and escalating issues when required
5. Demonstrated capacity to evaluate and interpret complex rules, policies and procedures
6. Proven ability to thrive in a flexible, changing and fast-paced environment

**Desirable:**

7. Experience working in a University environment
8. Experience in delivering information sessions/seminars or other presentations

**Other job related information:**
Will be required to work outside of hours during peak grant submission periods. Will be required to work in a flexible way across several operational teams. While the University of Melbourne will consider Flexible Working Arrangements, this role will be located on our Parkville campus.