



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

**Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences**  
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

### Post-doctoral Research Fellow

<b>POSITION NO</b>	0065498
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Level A
<b>SALARY</b>	Level A: \$83,468 - \$113,262 p.a. (pro rata for part time)
<b>SUPERANNUATION</b>	Employer contribution of 17%
<b>WORKING HOURS</b>	Full-time (1.0 FTE)
<b>BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>	Fixed term for 2 years
<b>OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<a href="https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits">https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits</a>
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	Online applications are preferred. Go to <a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers</a> , select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then find the position by title or number.
<b>CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY</b>	A/Prof Peter Koval Email <a href="mailto:p.koval@unimelb.edu.au">p.koval@unimelb.edu.au</a> <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:  
[about.unimelb.edu.au/careers](http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers)

## ***Acknowledgement of Country***

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

## ***Position Summary***

The Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, is one of the leading schools of Psychology in Australia, with active research programs in Cognitive and Behavioural Neuroscience, Clinical Science, Cognitive and Mathematical Psychology, and Social and Personality Psychology. We have a large undergraduate and fourth-year teaching program and an extensive postgraduate program providing research and professional training.

A post-doctoral research fellow will be recruited to work in the Functions of Emotion in Everyday Life (FEEL) Lab on an Australian Research Council Discovery Project related to understanding the dynamics of real-world emotions. The project has a quantitative focus and will involve the application of novel modelling approaches to the world's largest repository of daily emotional experience data—the EMOTE database.

The FEEL Lab is a thriving research group with 20+ members. Our work focuses on understanding the dynamics of everyday emotional processes, including fluctuations in people's experiences of and efforts to regulate their emotions, and how these dynamical processes are related to daily events, social interactions, regulation goals/motives, and beliefs about emotions, at intra- and inter-personal levels. The FEEL Lab is a proudly inclusive and respectful environment, where we value diversity of thought, opinion, and background.

The post-doctoral fellow will work closely with FEEL Lab co-directors, A/Prof Peter Koval, Dr Elise Kalokerinos, and A/Prof Katie Greenaway, along with local and international collaborators on the research team, including Prof Vasillis Kostakos (computing, University of Melbourne). The fellow will be responsible for (i) reviewing the literature on emotion dynamics, (ii) applying new computational modelling approaches to daily emotion data, and (iii) presenting research findings at international conferences and via scientific publications. The fellow may also have opportunities to (co-)supervise graduate research student projects.

As an Academic staff member, the successful applicant is expected to support the broad ethos of the School and the School's compliance with University policies and procedures, including environmental health and safety as well as the Faculty's and the University's values.

## **1. Key Responsibilities**

- ▶ Analysing existing data on daily emotion dynamics and related processes using a variety of quantitative modelling approaches.
- ▶ Disseminating research findings through scientific publications and conference presentations.
- ▶ As needed, assisting with identifying, preparing, and submitting research grant applications.
- ▶ As needed, assisting with data collection activities (e.g., preparation of ethics applications, data collection materials, recruitment of participants).
- ▶ Participating in research independently and as a member of the FEEL Lab.
- ▶ Developing and maintaining effective working relationships with research teams and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Actively participating at project team and/or division meetings and with guidance, contributing to planning activities or committee work to support capacity-building.
- ▶ Effectively demonstrating and promoting University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity.

## **2. Selection Criteria**

### **2.1 ESSENTIAL**

- ▶ A PhD (or near completion) in psychology, behavioral science, or a related discipline.
- ▶ Experience with programming/statistical software (e.g., R, Python, or Mplus).
- ▶ Emerging track-record of international conference presentations and academic publications in reputable journals.
- ▶ High degree of independence, flexibility, and a willingness to embrace scientific challenges.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to contribute to team-based research projects.
- ▶ Demonstrated excellent verbal and written communication skills for effective research collaboration and engagement.

### **2.2 DESIRABLE**

- ▶ Expertise in affective science, including emotion and emotion regulation.
- ▶ Experience with quantitative modeling, especially time-series/dynamic models.
- ▶ Experience with intensive longitudinal methods (e.g., EMA, ESM, Daily Diary).
- ▶ Desire to build an academic or research career trajectory in affective science.

### **2.3 OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION**

- ▶ Occasional work out of ordinary hours, travel, etc.
- ▶ This position is based in Parkville and the surrounds, with limited flexibility to work remotely.

## **3. 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.

## ***4. 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:

<https://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel>

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

## ***5. Other Information***

### **5.1 ORGANISATION UNIT**

[www.psychologicalsciences.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.psychologicalsciences.unimelb.edu.au)

The Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences is one of six schools within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. It is consistently ranked one of the top Schools of Psychology in Australia and was ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in the world in the 2023 QS global rankings. The School is undergoing vigorous growth and attracts some of the best students nationally and internationally to its broad range of APS accredited undergraduate, graduate, professional, and research programs.

The School's teaching is underpinned by excellence in research across a range of fields, including cognitive and behavioural neuroscience, cognitive and mathematical psychology, social and personality psychology, and clinical science. Research links extend across 25 departments, centres and institutes within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, including The Melbourne Brain Centre, The Murdoch Children's Research Institute, ORYGEN Youth Research Centre, Austin Health, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Royal Children's Hospital, the Royal Women's Hospital, and St. Vincent's Hospital. Research links are also embedded in a broad range of other disciplines across the University including within the Faculties of the Victorian College of the Arts and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, Science, Business and Economics, Education, Engineering, Law, and the Melbourne Business School.

The School is home to a vibrant community of >180 academic, teaching, research and professional staff, over 100 honorary staff, 150 tutors, and 120 PhD students. In 2023, there were over 6,500 students enrolled in undergraduate subjects offered by Psychological Sciences, primarily through the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Biomedicine, but also in breadth subjects in the Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Environments, and Bachelor of Music. There were about 200 students enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Psychology, about 140 students enrolled in fourth year programs (B. A.(Hons), B.Sc.(Hons), and the Graduate Diploma of Psychology (Advanced) and around 130 students enrolled in our professional postgraduate programs (Clinical and Clinical Neuropsychology and combined Masters/PhD programs).

MSPS staff are located at various sites across the University:

- Redmond Barry Building, Tin Alley - main location

In addition MSPS requires access to large teaching spaces across campus in particular for undergraduate classes – Faculty of Science, Art, Bio-Med.

## 5.2 BUDGET DIVISION

[www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences has an enviable research record and is the University of Melbourne's largest faculty in terms of management of financial resources, employment of academic and professional staff, teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate (including research higher degree) students and the conduct of basic and applied research. The Faculty's annual revenue is \$628m with approximately 55% of this income related to research activities.

The Faculty has a student teaching load in excess of 8,500 equivalent full-time students including more than 1,300 research higher degree students. The Faculty has approximately 2,195 staff comprising 642 professional staff and 1,553 research and teaching staff.

The Faculty has appointed Australia's first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University – wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty's RAP will address Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

## 5.3 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 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>

## 5.4 ADVANCING MELBOURNE

The University's strategic direction is grounded in its purpose. While its expression may change, our purpose is enduring: to benefit society through the transformative impact of education and research. Together, the vision and purpose inform the focus and scale of our aspirations for the coming decade.

Advancing Melbourne reflects the University's commitment to its people, its place, and its partners. Our aspiration for 2030 is to be known as a world-leading and globally connected Australian university, with our students at the heart of everything we do.

- ▶ We will offer students a distinctive and outstanding education and experience, preparing them for success as leaders, change agents and global citizens.
- ▶ We will be recognised locally and globally for our leadership on matters of national and global importance, through outstanding research and scholarship and a commitment to collaboration.
- ▶ We will be empowered by our sense of place and connections with communities. We will take opportunities to advance both the University and the City of Melbourne in close collaboration and synergy.
- ▶ We will deliver this through building a brilliant, diverse and vibrant University community, with strong connections to those we serve.

The means for achieving these goals include the development of the University of Melbourne's academic and professional staff and the capabilities needed to support a modern, world-class university. Those means require a commitment to ongoing financial sustainability and an ambitious infrastructure program which will reshape the campus and our contribution to the communities we engage with. This strategy, and the priorities proposed, is centred around five intersecting themes; place, community, education, discovery and global.

## 5.5 GOVERNANCE

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

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance>