School of Historical and Philosophical Studies  
Faculty of Arts

The RW Seddon Fellow in Philosophy of Science

POSITION NO 0058598

CLASSIFICATION Level A

SALARY $80,258 - $108,906 (pro rata for part-time)

SUPERANNUATION Employer contribution of 17%

WORKING HOURS Full time

BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT Fixed term for 3 years

OTHER BENEFITS https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits

HOW TO APPLY Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, select the relevant option (‘Current Opportunities’ or ‘Jobs available to current staff’), then find the position by title or number.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY Prof Fiona Fidler  
Tel +61 3 9305 6315  
Email fidlerfm@unimelb.edu.au

Please do not send your application to this contact

The Faculty of Arts is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion and strongly encourages people with diverse experiences to apply. This includes First Nations people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, Deaf and hard of hearing people, people with a disability, LGBTIQ+, and neurodiverse people. If you have any accessibility requirements for the application or interview, please contact us. We are dedicated to ensuring barrier free and inclusive practices to recruit the most talented candidates. A position description is available in alternate formats if required, including large print, plain English, and accessible Word or PDF document.

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website: 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 School of Historical and Philosophical Studies (SHAPS) is at the forefront of teaching and research in the humanities in Australia. We have a team of dedicated academic and professional staff in the disciplines of History, Philosophy, Classics and Archaeology, History and Philosophy of Science, Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation.

The History and Philosophy of Science program began in 1946 at the University of Melbourne as one of the first departments of its kind in the world. Our vibrant, interdisciplinary program will challenge the way you think about the world. As a discipline, we address questions about the nature of scientific inquiry and practice, including how scientific theories are generated and validated; the ways in which our scientific knowledge has changed throughout history; and the complex relationship between science, technology, culture, religion and politics.

The RW Seddon Fellowship in Philosophy of Science will accelerate a research strength in philosophy of science, specifically in work related to the creation of scientific knowledge. This includes, but is not limited to, research on topics such as: theory generation; scientific reasoning; the role and value of exploratory research in the development of new scientific ideas and hypothesis; concept formation; the relationship between observation and theory; and scientific creativity.

The RW Seddon Fellow will have a track record of research that has resulted in the publication of high-quality outputs or other demonstrated scholarly activities. This research may have been carried out independently and/or as part of a team. The Research Fellow may co-supervise postgraduate research students or projects and be involved in research training.

In addition to the core research activities the incumbent will engage in service and leadership within the discipline and/or Faculty, and be supported to achieve success by the School, Faculty and University.

After a three year fixed term research period, the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies may convert this position to a continuing ‘teaching and research’ role, for which the successful RW Seddon Fellow may be able to apply.
1. **Key Responsibilities**
The RW Seddon Fellow in Philosophy of Science will possess well-established academic skills and strong academic performance in the following areas:

1.1 **RESEARCH**
- Publications arising from scholarship and research in line with the Faculty of Arts minimum expectations
- Application for external competitive research funding
- Participation in the research activities of the discipline (such as departmental weekly seminars, and work-in-progress days for fourth year and research higher degree students)
- Active participation in external research seminars, and national and international conferences
- Contribution to developing networks within the discipline and with other universities, institutions, and communities, both nationally and internationally, to support collaboration
- Honours and Research Higher Degree supervision

1.2 **LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**
- Development of initiatives designed to raise the profile of the History & Philosophy of Science discipline, particularly related to philosophy of science
- Active engagement in service, leadership and coordination roles in the discipline, School and Faculty demonstrating respectful, inclusive behaviours at all times and building trust among colleagues
- Active participating in the committees (discipline, School, Faculty, University)
- Leadership in development of national and international institutional partnerships and networks
- Compliance with University policy and procedural requirements
- Continuing professional development activities
- Development of initiatives designed to raise the profile of History and Philosophy of Science discipline, particularly related to philosophy of science

1.3 **TEACHING**
Opportunities for the development of teaching experience in the form of guest lectures or student seminars in philosophy of science may be negotiated.

2. **Selection Criteria**

2.1 **ESSENTIAL**
- A completed PhD in philosophy of science or relevant discipline
- An excellent record of high-quality research in philosophy of science, specifically in the field of scientific knowledge creation, theory generation, and associated scientific reasoning
The potential to gain research funding from national and/or international competitive research bodies, and other sources
Capacity for multidisciplinary and collaborative research, including with the sciences
Capacity to attract and supervise honours students and postgraduate research students
Excellent interpersonal skills and collegial behaviour of a very high standard (encompassing commitment to the Faculty’s Values and Behaviours outlined on page 6)
The ability to interact productively with staff and students, and to contribute to the activities and administration of the HPS program

2.2 DESIRABLE
Experience in community and public engagement with a capacity to build local and international networks and partnerships
Research interests that could provide synergies with the other members of the School and collaboration with other researchers at the University of Melbourne.

2.3 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
Employment in this position is conditional upon completion of the University’s “fit and proper” checks where required and receipt of a valid Working with Children Check prior to commencement.

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**


5.2 **BUDGET DIVISION**

https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/

The Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne brings together leading scholars across 40 disciplines of study in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Our academic staff are of international standing and committed to excellence in teaching and research.

Our community includes over 450 academic and professional staff, 10,000 students across undergraduate, graduate coursework and research higher degree programs, and a strong and active alumni population of over 70,000 worldwide.

The Faculty actively seeks to welcome and value the unique contributions of people from all backgrounds and is committed to diversity and inclusion practices to achieve our vision. Our Faculty has gender parity across all levels and supports its staff through initiatives such as the Faculty of Arts Conference Childcare Support Scheme, the Faculty’s mentoring program and the Divisional Indigenous Development Plan (DIDP).

**FACULTY OF ARTS STRATEGY**

Under the leadership of Professor Russell Goulbourne, we have launched a Faculty of Arts Strategy focusing on:

- We will offer students a distinctive and outstanding education and experience, preparing them for success as leaders, change agents and global citizens.
- Transformative learning
- Research that makes a difference
- Partnerships that add value
- Support for all staff
Mission

The Faculty of Arts is committed to benefiting the peoples, cultures and economies of Melbourne, Australia, the region and the world.

We do this across our distinctively broad range of Humanities and Social Sciences disciplines by creating, transforming and sharing knowledge that deepens and enriches understanding of what it means to be human and by developing graduates whose skills, values and empathy enable them to shape better, fairer and more sustainable societies.

Values and Behaviours

We are committed to benefiting the peoples, cultures and economies of Melbourne, Australia, the Region and the World. We expect all our staff to commit to our values of:

- Rigour and integrity, generosity and humility, intellectual freedom and critical independence
- Diversity and inclusion, trust and mutual respect, social justice and civic responsibility
- Courage and creativity, openness and transparency, environmental sustainability.

Vision

Building on our achievements to date, by 2025 the Faculty of Arts will be:

- the leading faculty of our kind in the Asia-Pacific region and one of the most compelling in the world, known above all for the difference we make locally, nationally, regionally and globally
- home to a dynamic, diverse and inclusive community of staff and students who are committed to achieving our full potential by working together and with our partners in a spirit of courageous generosity
- transformed by recognising and engaging the ways of knowing held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, on whose land we work

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