**POSITION DESCRIPTION**



Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Fellow (Biostatistics)

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| Position number | 0063040 |
| Classification | Research Fellow, Level B |
| Salary | $119,231 - $141,581 (pro rata for part-time) |
| Superannuation | Employer contribution of 17%  |
| Working hours | Full-time (1.0 FTE) |
| Basis of Employment  |  Fixed-term position for 12 months with possible extension. |
| Other Benefits | <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits> |
| How to Apply | Online applications are preferred. Go to [http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers,](http://hr.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. |
| ContactFor enquiries only |  Name: A/Prof Sabine Braat Email: s.braat@unimelb.edu.auPlease 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](http://hr.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 appointee will be employed in the Biostatistics Unit of the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, led by Professor Julie Simpson.

The appointee will work at the Biostatistics and Clinical Epidemiology node of the Methods and Implementation Support for Clinical and Health (MISCH) research Hub. MISCH provides high quality clinical and health research support across the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and affiliated hospitals and institutes ([https://clinicalresearch.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](https://clinicalresearch.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/)). As part of their role with MISCH, the appointee will provide biostatistical support to multiple research groups (including the Centre for Health, Exercise and Sports Medicine [CHESM] at the Department of Physiotherapy at the Melbourne School of Health Sciences) on major clinical trials and observational studies. This will involve providing input into study design, sample size determination and statistical analysis plans, performing statistical analyses of data, preparing reports and contributing to publications presenting research findings.

At MISCH, the appointee will work with A/Prof Sabine Braat and A/Prof Karen Lamb (co-Heads of the Biostatistics and Clinical Epidemiology node of the MISCH research Hub) with their team of biostatisticians and clinical epidemiologists. The appointee will primarily report to A/Prof Sabine Braat and be co-supervised by A/Prof Karen Lamb.

We foster a values-based culture of innovation and creativity to enhance the research performance of the University and to achieve excellence in teaching and research outcomes.

We invest in developing the careers and wellbeing of our students and staff and expect all our leaders to live our values of:

• Collaboration and teamwork

• Compassion

• Respect

• Integrity

• Accountability

# Key Responsibilities

The appointee will be required to:

* Participate in research as a collaborating biostatistician in a broader research team within the MISCH research Hub and its collaborating research groups.
* Attend and participate in regular research meetings of the MISCH research Hub and its collaborating research groups, including chairing and presenting meetings as required.
* Respond to enquiries about biostatistics from health researchers to the MISCH research Hub and its collaborating research groups independently.
* Coordinate and contribute to consultation meetings with collaborators.
* Contribute to the statistical aspects and writing of research proposals (e.g. grants, trial protocols), performing sample size calculations, writing statistical analysis plans, preparing study reports.
* Contribute to database and randomisation code preparation, provide input into data and safety monitoring plans, and write interim reports during study conduct.
* Undertake data cleaning (e.g. data checking) and programming of output (e.g. tables/figures) using specialised programs for quantitative data such as R and Stata.
* Perform statistical analyses and assist in the preparation of conference papers, scientific publications, or seminars reporting the results of trials or research collaborations.
* Contribute to statistical teaching and training within the research field by delivering seminars and workshops on statistical topics to health researchers as part of the MISCH research Hub and its collaborating research groups.
* Supervise or co-supervise postgraduate (e.g., Master of Biostatistics) and PhD students.
* Contribute to and participate in learning activities in the School and/or Faculty, including webinars, workshops, etc.
* Actively participate at School and/or Faculty meetings.
* Participate in community and professional activities related to the relevant disciplinary area including attendance and presentations at conferences and seminars.
* Engage positively in learning and career development of self and others.
* Actively contribute to the discipline by participating in professional bodies and in scholarly meetings and conferences, and by undertaking professional activity in the field.
* Effective demonstration and promotion of University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity.
* Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5 and as required by Population Health and Immunity division at WEHI.

The responsibilities as specified above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.

# Selection Criteria

## Essential

* PhD in biostatistics or statistics or health data science.
* Demonstrated excellence in written and verbal communication skills, including effective communication of statistical concepts to people with limited statistical knowledge.
* Demonstrated ability to work independently as well as collaboratively and collegially in multi-disciplinary teams to achieve project goals and meet agreed deadlines.
* Demonstrated ability to apply research methodologies and quantitative data analysis.
* Experience with statistical software such as Stata or R for data handling and statistical analysis.
* Demonstrated ability to maintain high work standard under guidance and work on multiple projects concurrently.
* Experience in or willingness to participate in the supervision or co-supervision of postgraduate and PhD students.

## Desirable

* At least two years of experience as a biostatistician.
* Experience with randomised trials or observational studies and related statistical methods.
* Experience with publishing peer-reviewed scientific articles.
* Demonstrated ability to develop research collaborations.
* Experience with publishing first-author peer-reviewed scientific articles.
* Experience with teaching and training (e.g., delivering seminars or workshops).

# 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.

# 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/**](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.

# Other Information

## Biostatistics UNIT

The Biostatistics Unit at the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics currently employs 7 Professors/Assoc Professors, 6 senior research fellows, 6 research fellows, 5 research assistants and 5 PhD students. We have developed an integrated program of methodological and collaborative research, as well as providing statistical training to build a skilled research workforce. Our group delivers the Master of Biostatistics (an affiliated partner of the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia, [BCA](https://www.bca.edu.au/)), as well as leading biostatistics teaching within the Master of Public Health and Master of Science (Epidemiology). We also lead the Biostatistics and Clinical Epidemiology node of the Methods and Implementation Support for Clinical and Health research (MISCH, <http://clinicalresearch.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/>) Hub. The MISCH Hub is a University of Melbourne (Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences) initiative for supporting the conduct of health, clinical and basic research by providing access to biostatistics, health economics, health informatics, and implementation effectiveness and co-design expertise.

At the Biostatistics Unit we collaborate on numerous clinical and epidemiological studies. We lead research in the development, application and interpretation of sophisticated statistical methods, including modelling of longitudinal and correlated data from cohort studies, and methods for handling missing or incomplete data within such studies.

Since 2012, our unit has co-led, along with units at the Murdoch Children’s Research

Institute and Monash University, the Victorian Centre for Biostatistics ([ViCBiostat](https://www.vicbiostat.org.au/)), a Centre of Research Excellence in Biostatistics previously funded by the NHMRC.

## CENTRE FOR EPIDEM IOLOGY AND BIO ST ATISTICS

 https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-epidemiology-and-biostatistics

The Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics is one of four Centres and an Institute  that comprise the  Melbourne School of Population and Global  Health.

Our Centre's units include:

* + 1. Allergy and Lung Health
		2. Twins Research Australia
		3. Biostatistics
		4. Breast Cancer
		5. Colorectal Cancer
		6. Indigenous Epidemiology and Health
		7. Population Interventions
		8. Infectious Disease Dynamics
		9. Sexual Health
		10. Neuroepidemiology
		11. Malaria and Infectious Disease Epidemiology
		12. Teaching and Learning

The Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics is at the forefront of a preventive health revolution. Big data, changing infectious diseases patterns and multi-disciplinary collaborations are transforming the ways public health disciplines are researched and taught. Our Centre aims to be a leader in this evolving environment.

Epidemiology and biostatistics provide solutions to global public health challenges that demand multi-disciplinary responses. Our Centre's approach to research, teaching, and research training reflects this reality. We combine deep expertise with a broad range and reach – through our nine units, and our active links to other renowned institutions. This ensures our researchers and graduates are ready to contribute to preventing and alleviating the world's common, debilitating and burdensome health issues.

## THE M ELBOURNE SCHOOL OF PO PUL AT ION AND GL OB AL HEALTH

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

MSPGH was established in 2001 as the first school of its kind in Australia with a vision to make a difference in the population and public health sphere - building on the substantial assets of our University to advance public health in communities nationally and internationally - with a strong focus on Indigenous peoples.

Since its inception, the School has grown rapidly in size, scope and reputation and has consistently attracted leading academics and researchers who bring globally leading skills, insights and expertise. We continue to attract increasing levels of competitive funding from governments and from a range of renowned philanthropic organisations and individuals.

The quality of MSPGH research is confirmed by the Academic Ranking of World Universities within which the University of Melbourne maintains its place as the top-ranked Australian university. The ARWU Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2023 placed the University 16th in the world for Public Health and first in Australia. Our researchers regularly have work published in prestigious titles including The Lancet, Nature, The New England Journal of Medicine and the JAMA. The School is strongly engaged internationally with key collaborations including the World Health Organization, Grand Challenges Canada, the Shanghai Centre for Disease Control, the Pasteur Institute and Department of Health in Vietnam, the Public Health Foundation of India and the International Association for Suicide Prevention.

The School has almost 1,000 students enrolled in graduate programs. The flagship Master of Public Health degree forms the core of a strong teaching program alongside the Major in Public Health and Epidemiology in the Bachelor of Biomedicine and the Master of Biostatistics as well as other undergraduate teaching and a suite of specialist postgraduate coursework degrees across Epidemiology, Health Economics, Health Informatics, Climate Change and Health, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Gerontology, and Sexual Health. These programs and the School’s extensive cohort of graduate research students make a substantial contribution to training the next generations of public health specialists and researchers nationally and internationally.

The School comprises five Centres, two Institutes, and one Lab that focus on key areas of population and global health that are relevant now and will have tangible impacts on the health of national and international communities into the future. These are:

* Centre for Epidemiology & Biostatistics
* Centre for Health Equity
* Centre for Health Policy
* Centre for Mental Health and Community Wellbeing
* Onemda: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing
* Melbourne Disability Institute
* Nossal Institute for Global Health
* The Climate CATCH Lab

## FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

[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.

## The University of Melbourne

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excel¬lence 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>

## 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.

## 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>