



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

School of Physics  
Faculty of Science

# Research Assistant, Melbourne Space Laboratory (2 positions)

<b>POSITION NO</b>	0063868
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Level A
<b>SALARY</b>	\$83,468 - \$113,262 p.a. (*PhD entry level \$105,518 p.a.)
<b>SUPERANNUATION</b>	Employer contribution of 17%
<b>WORKING HOURS</b>	Full-Time
<b>BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>	Fixed-Term for 23 months <b>FLEXIBLE EMPLOYMENT</b> The University of Melbourne is strongly committed to supporting diversity and flexibility in the workplace. Applications for part-time or other flexible working arrangements will be welcomed and will be fully considered subject to meeting the inherent requirements of the position.
<b>OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/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 Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number.
<b>CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY</b>	Michele Trenti Tel +61 3 8344 3703 Email <a href="mailto:michele.trenti@unimelb.edu.au">michele.trenti@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 country throughout Australia. The University recognises the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original custodians of country and their continued connection to the land, waterways, songlines and culture. The University respects all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and warmly embrace those students, staff, Elders and collaborators who identify as First Nations.

## ***Position Summary***

The Melbourne Space Laboratory invites applications for two Research Associates to join the team that is operating the SpIRIT spacecraft and contributing to the development of innovative space instrumentation through international collaboration and engagement with industry.

The successful applicants will work under the supervision of Prof. Michele Trenti with contributions to the laboratory primarily envisioned in the areas of satellite on-board software development and operations (one position) and thermal/mechanical modelling (one position).

Applicants with a broad set of skills in space missions or with demonstrated ability to master multiple areas of space missions (project management, mission operations, electrical, electronic, mechanical and systems engineering) are particularly encouraged to apply given the dynamic and diverse nature of research projects that the Melbourne Space Laboratory contributes to.

A postgraduate (Master's) degree is required; however, please note that near-completion of a PhD or equivalent professional experience is desirable but not essential.

We encourage applicants from under-represented groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To allow us to consider performance relative to opportunity, we also invite applicants to provide a brief statement (up to 1 page) that describes circumstances that may have affected their career development or progression, including career interruptions or delays, periods of part time work, or forms of bias they have experienced.

### ***1. Key Responsibilities***

As with all positions, career achievements will be interpreted relative to opportunity, including career disruptions due to caring responsibilities, time in industry, illness etc.

The position description should be read alongside [Academic Career Benchmarks and Indicators](#). A level A academic is acquiring skills and building academic achievements (oriented towards the benchmarks).

#### **1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING**

The appointee will be expected to:

- ▶ You are expected to significantly contribute towards the research effort of the Melbourne Space Laboratory and to develop your expertise with an increasing degree of autonomy
- ▶ Under limited supervision, contribute to space mission or space instrumentation design, development, verification, and/or operations
- ▶ Under the guidance and support of Senior Academic staff support and conduct internationally competitive research, resulting in publications in high impact journals

- ▶ Contribute to and publish academic papers and other scholarly outputs to a high academic standard in accordance with the research expectations of the University of Melbourne
- ▶ Actively participate in research seminars and conferences to disseminate research findings as opportunities arise
- ▶ Contribute to the preparation, or where appropriate individual preparation of research proposal submissions to internal or external funding bodies as relevant.
- ▶ Undertake administrative functions and obligations primarily connected with the staff member's area of research.
- ▶ Engage with relevant professional and industry bodies and stakeholders to foster collaborative partnerships.

## 1.2 EDUCATION AND LEARNING

The appointee will be expected to:

- ▶ Contribute to teaching, training, scientific mentoring and supervision of students.
- ▶ Contribute to the effective supervision of junior research staff in the appointee's area of expertise

## 1.3 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

The appointee will be expected to:

- ▶ Actively participate at School meetings and with guidance, contribute to planning activities or committee work to support capacity building in the School/discipline.
- ▶ Actively participate in activities within the School and Faculty to support Diversity and Inclusion.
- ▶ 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
- ▶ Effective demonstration and promotion of University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity
- ▶ Actively contribute to School activities such as Open day to promote student engagement.

## 1.4 OTHER DUTIES

The appointee will be expected to:

- ▶ Perform other tasks as requested by the supervisor or the Head of School
- ▶ Actively participate in the University Professional Development Framework
- ▶ Ensure an up-to-date record of University compliance courses, such as, but not limited to, Appropriate Workplace Behaviour, PDF for Staff and Supervisors, OH &S training courses.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4.

# 2. Selection Criteria

## 2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Completion of a postgraduate degree in Engineering or Physics, or a related discipline

- ▶ Demonstrated experience in contributing to a space mission or space instrumentation project
- ▶ A demonstrated aptitude for research, with ability to contribute to preparation of technical reports and/or research manuscripts for publication
- ▶ Strong evidence of ability and desire to build an academic research career trajectory
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to engage with relevant professional and industry bodies and stakeholders to foster collaborative partnerships
- ▶ Excellent interpersonal and both written and oral communication skills in English
- ▶ Excellent ability to work co-operatively and positively in a multi-disciplinary research-based team environment and liaise with people from diverse backgrounds
- ▶ Demonstrated excellent organisational skills to meet deadlines and bring projects to a timely completion
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to develop, administer and see through to completion appropriately designed research projects with limited supervision

## 2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Completion (or near completion) of a PhD in Aerospace Engineering or a related discipline
- ▶ Demonstrated expertise in spacecraft operations
- ▶ Demonstrated expertise in spacecraft thermal modelling
- ▶ Proficiency with CAD modelling, preferably Autodesk Inventor
- ▶ The ability to attract external funding through grant applications and/or support in funded joint projects with others internal or external to the university
- ▶ Experience in assisting with supervision of students undertaking undergraduate or higher degree research projects
- ▶ Ability to contribute to research projects that require Australian or New Zealand citizenship or Australian Permanent Residency due to funding sponsor restrictions

## 2.3 OTHER JOB-RELATED INFORMATION

- ▶ This position requires the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.
- ▶ Occasional work out of ordinary hours, travel, etc.

## 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:

<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.

## **5. Other Information**

### **5.1 SCHOOL OF PHYSICS**

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

The University of Melbourne's School of Physics is one of Australia's leading Physics Schools. It has achieved this status through the high quality of its research and teaching programs. The School offers a wide range of physics subjects to undergraduate and postgraduate students. It is located in the David Caro building on the Swanston Street boundary of the University campus. The Head of School and the majority of the Professional staff are housed on the ground floor of the building to act as the first point of contact for students, staff and visitors. Currently some 25 academics, 23 teaching & research staff, 65 research-only staff, more than 95 postgraduate students and 72 associates supported by 32 professional staff make up the School. The School additionally hosts, 1 Thomas Baker Chair, 1 RAMAP Fellow, 1 ARC Professorial Fellow, 3 ARC Future Fellows, and 6 ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher. Skilled technical staff operate, maintain and develop complex instrumentation and equipment to support the teaching and research activities of the School.

The School currently performs research in the following areas: Astrophysics, Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, Experimental Condensed Matter Physics, Experimental Particle Physics, Material Science, Physical Biosciences, Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics and Theoretical Particle Physics.

The School of Physics hosts the ARC Centre of Excellence in Particle Physics at the Terascale and the Melbourne nodes of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Advanced Molecular Imaging and the ARC Centre of Excellence for All-Sky Astrophysics. The School also plays a major role in the Australian Synchrotron research program.

### **5.2 FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

<http://www.science.unimelb.edu.au>

Science at Melbourne is a global leader across fundamental and impactful scientific research and education. Science begins with curiosity, and we are dedicated to understanding the universe from

the level of sub-atomic particles to the solar system. We aim to be leaders who positively impact the community locally and globally, addressing major societal issues from climate change to disease. Our discoveries help build an understanding of the world around us.

Our strength is our breadth of expertise. We are the second largest faculty in the University comprising seven schools: Agriculture, Food & Ecosystem Sciences, BioSciences, Chemistry, Geography, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics, Physics and Veterinary Science.

This depth of knowledge positions the faculty to better understand, explore and impact our world and humanity, within a truly comprehensive Faculty of Science.

We have more than 150 years of experience in pioneering scientific thinking and analysis, leading to outstanding teaching and learning and offer a curriculum based on highly relevant research. We aim to train students with the knowledge and intellectual flexibility to drive the industries of tomorrow and lead across all levels of society.

We offer a range of undergraduate, honours, graduate and research degrees, enrolling more than 11,500 undergraduate and 3,750 graduate students.

We are dedicated to delivering leading transformative educational outcomes, underpinned by research, and an inclusive and inspiring student experience.

Excellence comes in many forms and diversity of thought, perspective and disciplines is essential to deliver globally leading science. At the core of our success is our focus on an inclusive environment for all in our community. Our Faculty's focus on equity, inclusion and belonging is grounded in our endeavour to ensure we are best placed to advance research, teaching and serve diverse national and global communities.

As a Science community we sit across five of the University's campuses – Parkville, Dookie, Burnley, Creswick and Werribee. This reach provides us with a unique perspective that is beneficial to our teaching and research. It also means we can offer our students a greater variety of learning experiences and internships to engage with industry partners to solve real-world issues.

The Faculty is custodian of the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, Melbourne Energy Institute, Melbourne Biodiversity Institute, Oceania Institute, Office for Environmental Programs, Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) and the Indigenous Knowledge Institute and home to numerous Centres.

### 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 <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance>