

Position Description – Research Fellow, Public Finance and Cryptocurrencies

Position Details

Position Title:	Research Fellow – Public Finance and Cryptocurrencies
Position Number:	
College/Portfolio:	College of Business
School/Group:	Blockchain Innovation Hub
Campus Location:	Based at the Melbourne CBD campus, but may be required to work and/or be based at other campuses of the University.
Classification:	Academic Level B
Employment Type:	Fixed Term until July 2023
Time Fraction:	1.0

RMIT University

RMIT is a leading multi-sector university of technology, design and enterprise with more than 91,000 students and 11,000 staff globally. We offer postgraduate, undergraduate, vocational education and online programs to provide students with a variety of work-relevant pathways.

Our purpose is to offer life-changing experiences for our students, and to help shape the world with research, innovation, teaching and industry engagement. With strong industry connections forged over 130 years, collaboration with industry remains integral to RMIT's leadership in education, applied and innovative research, and to the development of highly skilled, globally-focused graduates.

With three campuses in Melbourne (Central Business District, Brunswick and Bundoora), two in Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) and a centre in Barcelona, Spain, RMIT is a truly global university. RMIT also offers programs through partners in Singapore, Hong Kong, mainland China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Belgium, Germany, Austria and The Netherlands, and enjoys research and industry partnerships on every continent.

We are also committed to redefining our relationship in working with and supporting Aboriginal self-determination. Our goal is to achieve lasting transformation by maturing our values, culture, policy and structures in a way that embeds reconciliation in everything we do. We are changing our ways of knowing, working and being to support sustainable reconciliation and activate a relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff, students and community. Our three campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick and Bundoora campuses) are located on the unceded lands of the people of the Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation

We're proud to share with you:

- The launch of our second [Reconciliation Plan for Dhumbah Goorowa– a “commitment to share” - an important step in our reconciliation journey.](#)

- RMIT University is an **Athena SWAN** member with Bronze Award accreditation and the College of Science, Engineering and Health is central to driving improvements in gender equality, diversity and inclusion, particularly in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) disciplines.
- RMIT was placed **10th in the 2019 Randstad Employer Brand Research Awards**, up five spots from 2018.
- We were named as an **Employer of Choice for Gender Equality** by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency in 2019.
- We achieved **Gold Employer status for LGBTIQ** inclusion in the Australian Workplace Equality Index (AWEI) in 2018 and now in 2019.
- We were recognised as a **top five employer in 2018 for workplace accessibility** with the Australian Network on Disability.

RMIT Standings in university rankings

RMIT has a deep commitment to innovation, research and teaching, we are a 5-Star university under the QS Stars international evaluation system and are **238th globally in QS World University Rankings 2020** (moved up 12 places compared to 250th last year), being also 32nd in the world among universities less than 50 years old (2014 QS Top 50 Under 50 index). Additionally:

- In the 2019 QS World University Rankings by Subject, RMIT was positioned 12th in the world (highest ranked in Australia) in Art and Design, 22nd in the world (fourth highest in Australia) in Architecture and the Built Environment, and 37th in Media and Communications. We are also among the world's top 100 universities in Engineering (Civil and Structural; Electrical and Electronic; and Mechanical, Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing); Accounting and Finance; and Business and Management Studies).
- In the 2018 QS Rankings by Subject, RMIT was ranked 11th in the world and number one in the Asia Pacific for Art and Design, and 26th in Architecture and the Built Environment. RMIT is also among the world's top 100 universities in Engineering (Civil and Structural; Electrical and Electronic; and Computer Science and Information Systems); Accounting and Finance; Business and Management Studies; and Communication and Media Studies. The 2018 Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects highlighted RMIT's strength in Engineering and Technology in particular.
- In the specialised rankings, RMIT is ranked 77th in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020 and 82nd in the inaugural Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2019.
- RMIT also ranks in the world's **top 400** in the 2019 Academic Ranking of World Universities and in the world's **top 400** in 2020 Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

For more information, visit rmit.edu.au/about

Blockchain Innovation Hub

RMIT University is known for applied leading-edge research that engages with business and technology. Blockchain has the potential to automate and disintermediate the institutions and services that underpin our lives. It could change how we interact online, who controls our information, and shift the incentives that guide businesses and cooperative systems.

The Blockchain Innovation Hub is an interdisciplinary team of researchers in economics, political-economy, organisational theory, law, sociology, politics and communications. They work on crypto-economics, business strategy and adaptation to blockchain technologies, mapping the blockchain economy, and identifying the public policy challenges that will hold back or accelerate this economic revolution.

Find out more about the Blockchain Innovation Hub at rmitblockchain.io

Position Summary

The Research Fellow will work with research teams and partnerships in the Blockchain Innovation Hub on the Australian Research Council Discovery Project 'Public Finance and Cryptocurrencies' (DP200101808). The project aims to analyse the impact of cryptocurrency technology on taxation and the provision of public goods in Australia in order to provide guidance to Australian and international policymakers about how to prepare for potential disruptions to taxation and public goods provision.

The Research Fellow is required to undertake research activities in line with this project and the research strategies of RMIT University and the Blockchain Innovation Hub. The position will carry out independent and/or team research which has a significant impact in the area of their specialisation and be acknowledged at a national level as being influential in expanding the knowledge of their relevant discipline.

The Research Fellow's role is primarily to plan, develop and engage in high quality research projects that are aligned with the University's research focus areas. The Research Fellow will embed their research expertise into the life of the Blockchain Innovation Hub through the development of high-quality, productivity-driven research networks across RMIT and with local and national, internal and external partners.

Reporting Line

Reports to: Co-directors, Professor Jason Potts and Dr Chris Berg

Organisational Accountabilities

RMIT University is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff. RMIT and its staff must comply with a range of statutory requirements, including equal opportunity, occupational health and safety, privacy and trade practice. RMIT also expects staff to comply with its policy and procedures, which relate to statutory requirements and our ways of working.

Appointees are accountable for completing training on these matters and ensuring their knowledge and the knowledge of their staff is up to date.

Key Accountabilities

1. Undertake research in the areas of public finance, public economics and financial economics as they apply to blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies. Research specialisations could include areas such as cryptocurrencies, cryptofinance, digital assets, central bank digital currencies, initial coin offerings, public finance, the history of money and banking, financial regulation and governance, monetary economics and policy, and public finance.
2. Conduct high quality research individually or as part of a team including: managing research projects within timelines and budget and ensuring compliance with quality and reporting requirements; publishing research results in high quality outlets as lead or co-author; preparing and submitting external research funding applications; and supervising higher degree by research candidates.
3. Actively contribute to the development of research and engagement strategy within the research team, ensuring it aligns to the strategy of the Blockchain Innovation Hub and the University.
4. Participate in Blockchain Innovation Hub governance activities as requested and undertake administration duties, including engagement activity within RMIT.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Emerging track record and recognition for quality research outputs which will contribute to the Blockchain Hub's research areas evidenced by publications, development of new research initiatives, competitive research funding, and industry links.

2. Demonstrated ability to mentor and/or supervise higher degree by research candidates.
3. Ability to build effective networks with colleagues and generate alternative funding projects through effective liaison with industry and government.
4. Excellent interpersonal and communications skills appropriate for interacting with higher degree by research candidates, staff and industry, together with a strong commitment to teamwork and multidisciplinary collaboration.
5. Familiarity with the economics of cryptocurrencies, central bank digital currencies, and corporate digital currencies (such as the Facebook-led Libra consortia) is strongly recommended.

Qualifications

Mandatory: PhD or equivalent in relevant field

Appointment to this position is subject to passing a Working with Children check

Endorsed:	Signature:	Approved:	Signature:
	Name:		Name:
	Title:		Title:
	Date:		Date: