



RESEARCH FELLOW

DEPARTMENT/UNIT	Monash Sustainable Development Institute
FACULTY/DIVISION	Office of the Provost and Senior Vice-President
CLASSIFICATION	Level B
WORK LOCATION	Clayton campus

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Everyone needs a platform to launch a satisfying career. At Monash, we give you the space and support to take your career in all kinds of exciting new directions. You'll have access to quality research, infrastructure and learning facilities, opportunities to collaborate internationally, as well as the grants you'll need to publish your work. We're a university full of energetic and enthusiastic minds, driven to challenge what's expected, expand what we know, and learn from other inspiring, empowering thinkers. Discover more at www.monash.edu.

The **Provost and Senior Vice-President** is the Chief Academic Officer of the University and is responsible for: setting the university's academic strategy and priorities with view to improving the education and research performance of the university; oversight of faculties, academic related portfolios and university-wide centres and institutes" oversight of academic staffing including recruitment, development, reward and recognition, policies and procedures; strategic leadership for the delivery of academic programs; identifying and cultivating interdisciplinary areas of excellence and collaboration.

Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI) conducts leading interdisciplinary research and education aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. MSDI engages across all ten Monash University faculties to facilitate interdisciplinary research partnerships that provide solutions to sustainable development challenges globally; and provides a platform to share that expertise in partnership with industry, government and the community. For more information, please visit www.monash.edu/sustainable-development.

MSDI is coordinating the new program 'Advanced monitoring of the SDGs using AI and data technologies', which aims to explore the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) for better measuring and monitoring the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Monitoring the SDGs is crucial to provide decision makers with accurate insights on where and how progress is made or stalling. However, measuring and monitoring the SDGs is challenging and suffers from slow data collection and outdated data, incomplete or inconsistent data or data with limited granularity. AI holds promise to improve measuring SDG indicators and targets, but currently no existing AI applications exist. Moreover, there is a lack of understanding if and how decision makers will understand, use and act on insights from AI-enabled SDG measurements.

In this project, MSDI collaborates with the Faculty of Information Technology and the Faculty of Arts to bring together a leading interdisciplinary team across the social sciences and information technology to explore how best to govern and design AI for SDG indicator measurements. The project has received seed funding through a major Monash Interdisciplinary Research grant. The ambition of the project team is to use the seed funding to successfully demonstrate the usefulness of AI for SDG monitoring in order to maximise the chances for future funding success.

POSITION PURPOSE

A Level B research-only academic is expected to carry out independent and/or team research within the field in which they are appointed and to carry out activities to develop their research expertise relevant to the particular field of research.

The Research Fellow will play a leading role in designing the social science component of the project, data collection and analysis, and reporting and publishing the results. Specifically the work will include a review of the potential opportunities for using AI for each of the SDG targets and indicators; reviewing and synthesising the relevant social science academic literature; the design and execution of interviews with key-decision makers in Australia in measuring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals; the design and running of a policy workshop; and the preparation of a publishable manuscript for a high-level academic journal. The work will be done in consultation with the project leadership and research team across MSDI, the Faculty of IT and the Faculty of Arts. The work will also seek active alignment with SDG decision makers, such as the Australian SDG 6 working group on water.

Reporting Line: The position reports to Professor Rob Raven

Supervisory Responsibilities: Not applicable

Financial Delegation: Not applicable

Budgetary Responsibilities: Not applicable

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific duties required of a Level B research-only academic may include:

1. The conduct of research either as a member of a team or independently and the production of conference and seminar papers and publications from that research
2. Supervision of research-support staff involved in the staff member's research
3. Guidance in the research effort of junior members of research-only Academic staff in their research area
4. Contribution to the preparation or, where appropriate, individual preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies
5. Involvement in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise
6. Administrative functions primarily connected with their area of research
7. Occasional contributions to the teaching program within the field of the staff member's research
8. Co-supervision or, where appropriate, supervision of major honours or postgraduate research projects within the field of the staff member's area of research
9. Attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the organisational unit to which the research is connected and/or at departmental, school and/or faculty meetings and/or membership of a limited number of committees

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Education/Qualifications

1. The appointee will have:
 - A doctoral qualification in the relevant discipline area or equivalent qualifications or research experience

Knowledge and Skills

2. Demonstrated qualitative analysis and manuscript and research proposal preparation skills; including a solid track record of refereed research publications

3. The ability to work both independently in a research environment and as part of an inter-disciplinary research team
4. High level organisational skills, with demonstrated capacity to establish and achieve goals
5. Excellent written and oral communication skills
6. A demonstrated awareness of the principles of confidentiality, privacy and information handling
7. A demonstrated capacity to work in a collegiate manner with other staff in the workplace
8. Advanced computer skills with and proficiency in the production of high level work using software such as Microsoft Office applications and specified University software programs, with the capability and willingness to learn new packages as appropriate
9. Interest in and knowledge of Artificial Intelligence and the Sustainable Development Goals

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- Travel to other campuses of the University may be required
- Travel for data collection in Australia is expected
- There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time
- There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted

GOVERNANCE

Monash University expects staff to appropriately balance risk and reward in a manner that is sustainable to its long-term future, contribute to a culture of honesty and integrity, and provide an environment that is safe, secure and inclusive. Ensure you are aware of and adhere to University policies relevant to the duties undertaken and the values of the University. This is a standard which the University sees as the benchmark for all of its activities in Australia and internationally.