RESEARCH FELLOW & GSDR SCIENCE COORDINATOR

DEPARTMENT/UNIT
Monash Sustainable Development Institute

FACULTY/DIVISION
Office of the Provost and Senior Vice-President

CLASSIFICATION
Level B

DESIGNATED CAMPUS OR 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.

As a leading interdisciplinary research, education and impact organisation, Monash Sustainable Development Institute (MSDI) is advancing the wellbeing of people and planet, for current and future generations. Monash University has a wealth of sustainable development expertise across its ten faculties. MSDI engages across Monash to bring together applied and transdisciplinary researchers, practitioners and students to advance systems transformation for sustainable development; and provides a platform to create change through deep collaboration, working in close partnership with government, industry and communities to amplify our impact. MSDI is also host to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Regional Centre. We offer forward-thinking study programs and courses that enable people and organisations to engage with and respond to some of the biggest environmental, economic and social issues facing our world today. For more information, please visit www.monash.edu/msdi.

The mission of MSDI is to understand, influence and transform systems for sustainable development in Australia and our region, collaborating with partners to build knowledge and capacity, and drive practical change.

Monash is the first Australian university, and one of only 15 research institutions in the world, to be offered a role in shaping the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). The next version will be published in 2023. The
GSDR is the quadrennial report on global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and informs deliberations at the United Nations General Assembly. The report will be shaped and written by an independent scientific panel, comprising 15 scientists appointed by the UN Secretary-General. The 2019 GSDR, *The Future is Now: Science for Achieving Sustainable Development* has been extremely influential in policy making and in shaping SDG efforts. Some countries, including Germany, have adopted the report, using it to inform their policy making at the highest level. Businesses are using the report to drive decision making, and new research agendas are being formed in response to the directions set by the report.

The GSDR content in general, and the levers for change to be highlighted in the report in particular, are directly related to the expertise embodied in Monash faculties and centres. The ambition of the GSDR is also closely aligned with the impact agenda proposed for Monash’s next strategic direction. The opportunity exists to benefit from Dr Malekpour’s appointment to coordinate an all-of-Monash contribution, and leverage benefits from this prestigious global engagement for the wider Monash academic community.

**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 and GSDR Science Coordinator will undertake research and research synthesis activities on SDG transformations, support input into the GSDR, develop co-publications among Monash academics, and will play a key role at the research-practice-policy interface in order to nurture new interdisciplinary research opportunities for Monash academics.

**Reporting Line:** The position reports to Dr Shirin Malekpour and works in close collaboration with the leaders of Better Governance & Policy and the Sustainable Development themes of the Monash Research Agenda.

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** Not applicable

**Financial Delegation:** Not applicable

**Budgetary Responsibilities:** Not applicable

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Conducting research and research synthesis as a member of a team and produce conference and seminar papers and journal publications from that research

2. Engagement with UN agencies and the Independent Group of Scientists for the GSDR

3. Proactive engagement with Monash faculties and centres, particularly those aligned with the Better Governance and Policy and the Sustainable Development themes of the Monash Research Agenda

4. Contributing to the design, organisation and facilitation of participatory workshops (and other forms of consultation) in Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and elsewhere, involving academics, businesses, industries, civil society and government agencies to seek their input into the GSDR

5. Developing research collaboration opportunities with Monash academics across different campuses in the form of co-publications in major academic journals such as Nature, Nature Sustainability, etc. on the back of the consultation process and other forms of collaboration

6. Connecting Monash academics with major global policy networks (e.g. UN agencies) and research networks directly and indirectly involved in the GSDR process, and bring home opportunities for funding, and, building strategic alliances with well-regarded international partners

7. Contribution to the preparation or, where appropriate, individual preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies
8. Involvement in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise

9. Administrative functions primarily connected with the area of research

10. Occasional contributions to the teaching program within the field of the staff member’s research

11. Co-supervision or, where appropriate, supervision of major honours or postgraduate research projects within the field of the staff member’s area of research

12. 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

13. Other duties as directed from time to time

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Education/Qualifications
1. The appointee will have:
   ● A doctoral qualification in a discipline related to SDG transformations

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. Knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals and the GSDR process

10. Experience of working in transdisciplinary environments, and with major global organisations

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.