

## Position Description

### Professor (Plant Biology)

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| <b>Position No:</b>          | 50142705  |
| <b>Business Unit:</b>        | Provost   |
| <b>Division:</b>             | School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment  |
| <b>Department:</b>           | Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences   |
| <b>Classification Level:</b> | Level E Research only   |
| <b>Employment Type:</b>      | Full-Time, Continuing   |
| <b>Campus Location:</b>      | Melbourne (Bundoora)  |
| <b>Other Benefits:</b>       | <a href="http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits">http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits</a> |

#### Further information about:

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

La Trobe School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment - <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/school-agriculture-biomedicine-and-environment>

La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food - <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/research/centres/liaf>

#### For enquiries only contact:

Prof Mathew G. Lewsey – [m.lewsey@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:m.lewsey@latrobe.edu.au)

Prof Tony Bacic – [t.bacic@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:t.bacic@latrobe.edu.au)

Prof Travis Beddoe – [t.beddoe@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:t.beddoe@latrobe.edu.au)

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## **Position Context/Purpose**

The Department of Animal, Plant and Soil Sciences encompasses a broad range of disciplines including agriculture, soil science, agronomy, crop science, plant science, and animal physiology and health. As a part of the School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment, we work closely with colleagues across disciplines to solve the most pressing fundamental and applied problems in plant biology.

As part of La Trobe University's ongoing commitment to solving real world problems at the regional, national and international level, the mission of the La Trobe Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Food (LISAF) is to conduct and translate cutting-edge research to maintain and increase food production in a sustainable manner. LISAF will deliver innovation across a "paddock to gut" program across five Domain areas of 1. Farming Systems – Soils and Agronomy, 2. Protected Cropping – Medicinal Agriculture & Horticulture, 3. Fit for Purpose Seeds, 4. Food and Nutrition, and 5. Food Business & Food Security. The appointee will be a co-lead in both Domains 2 and 3 and is expected to have achieved international recognition through original, innovative and distinguished contributions to research, research training and research translation. Domain 2 is underpinned by the \$28+ million Australian Research Council (ARC) Industrial Transformation Research Hub for Medicinal Agriculture (MedAg Hub), led by La Trobe University, whereas Domain 3 is underpinned by the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plants For Space (P4S), in which the successful candidate will also be a Chief Investigator. P4S will help to establish a long-term human presence in space, whilst also developing agricultural and food technology innovations on Earth. The La Trobe node contributes major research and outreach programs, based in LISAF, working with national and international partners.

The appointee will be a world expert in molecular plant phenotyping, including knowledge of computer vision-based phenotyping of crops in controlled environments. Having knowledge of plant physiology and development would be advantageous. They will be expected to provide guidance in the disciplinary field and foster excellence in research, research policy and research training within the institution, discipline and/or profession and within the scholarly and general community. All Professors are expected to contribute to the leadership not only of their School, but also of the University as a whole.

### **Duties at this level will include:**

- Foster excellence and advancement of the research discipline of molecular plant phenotyping, including computer vision-based phenotyping of crops in controlled environments. Play a major role in elements of major research projects including management and leadership.
- Provide leadership and foster excellence in research and policy development in the discipline within La Trobe and the scholarly and/or general community.
- Lead successful research proposal submissions to external funding bodies and be responsible for the financial management of grants.
- Encourage and promote a robust and innovative research culture within the University.
- Play a leading role in discipline-based mentoring and supporting the development of more junior research staff within the Department/School/University.
- Contribute broader leadership within the University.
- Take a leading role in the professional field, nationally and internationally, via appropriate national and international organisations and events, including involvement with government agencies, commercial and industrial sectors where appropriate.
- Build collaborative and sustainable relationships with, and act as expert advisor/consultant to government, industry and other external organisations.
- Undertake other duties commensurate with the classification and scope of the position as required by the Dean of School.

### **Essential Criteria**

## **Skills and knowledge required for the position**

- Completion of a PhD in plant molecular sciences, agricultural science, plant biology together with substantial research experience and involvement in plant phenotyping, computer vision, and/or controlled environment agriculture.
- Outstanding record of original, innovative and internationally recognised research within plant phenotyping or controlled environment agriculture with evidence of its impact and significance.
- Demonstrated high level leadership and management experience in leading research teams or projects and financial management of grants for research projects.
- Demonstrated success in supervising, mentoring and fostering the research activities of others and contributing effectively at multiple levels within organisations.
- Demonstrated success in leading research proposal submissions to external funding bodies and a substantial record of external research funding through competitive national or international grants, industry funding.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in liaising with collaborators and industry partners and in promoting research links with outside organisations/agencies.
- Outstanding analytical capability with an ability to communicate complex information clearly both orally and in writing.
- Evidence of extensive successful supervision of Honours and Postgraduate research students.
- Proven ability to encourage intellectual development and career aspirations of students.

## **Capabilities required to be successful in the position**

- Ability to collaborate effectively across functions, tailor communication in a way that is meaningful to the audience and contribute to a safe, inclusive, high-performing culture – consistently modelling accountability, connectedness, innovation and care.
- Demonstrated commitment to reflective practice and self-development, identifying and challenging own biases, responding to others with empathy and accurately reading and responding to organisational, political and social dynamics.
- Ability to inspire and motivate others towards shared objectives, actively facilitate communication and two-way feedback across the University and create a safe, inclusive, high-performing team culture – consistently modelling and enabling accountability, connection, innovation and care.
- Ability to operationalise strategy, adapt quickly to disruption and successfully lead people through change – building a culture in which staff members actively contribute to the improvement of organisational practice.

## **Essential Compliance Requirements**

To hold this La Trobe University position the occupant must:

- hold, or be willing to undertake and pass, a Victorian Working With Children Check; AND
- take personal accountability to comply with all University policies, procedures and legislative or regulatory obligations; including but not limited to TEQSA and the Higher Education Threshold Standards.

## **Other Information**

The position description is indicative of the initial expectation of the role and subject to changes to University goals and priorities, activities or focus of the job.

## Position Flexibility

La Trobe University is committed to providing a diverse, inclusive and respectful working environment for all staff. We offer flexible work arrangements that can assist you in balancing your work and other responsibilities.

### Why La Trobe:

- Develop your career at an innovative, global university where you'll collaborate with community and industry to create impact.
- Enjoy working on our inspiring and stunning campuses – the perfect hub for industry, students and academics
- Help transform the lives of students, partners and communities now and in the future

This is more than just a job. Working at La Trobe offers opportunities to demonstrate excellence and transform lives.

Here, you'll join exceptional people, partners and communities, who power our operations with ambition and purpose.

We are forward-looking and culturally inclusive. We continuously review, improve and transform our processes to embrace new, flexible approaches. That means you'll always have the opportunity to succeed and make a difference.

### La Trobe's Cultural Qualities:



#### **We are accountable**

*We strive for excellence in everything we do. We hold each other and ourselves to account, and work to the highest standard.*



#### **We are connected**

*We connect to the world outside – the students and communities we serve, both locally and globally*



#### **We are innovative**

*We tackle the big issues of our time to transform the lives of our students and society.*



#### **We care**

*We care about what we do and why we do it. We believe in the power of education and research to transform lives and global society. We care about being the difference in the lives of our students and communities*

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For Human Resource Use Only

Initials:

Date: