LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

CISCO

FLAGSHIP ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT

Cisco Chair
AI in Health Systems

A FLAGSHIP ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER THE LA TROBE – CISCO PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE AI-ENABLED HEALTH SYSTEMS THROUGH WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH, INNOVATION, TRANSLATION AND IMPACT.

POSITION OVERVIEW AND STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY

The Cisco Chair for AI in Health Systems is a flagship academic leadership appointment jointly supported by La Trobe University and Cisco. The role is designed to provide national and international leadership in applying artificial intelligence to improve health systems, healthcare delivery, and patient outcomes.

Located within the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (SCEMS), the Chair is appointed at Associate Professor Level D (fixed-term) and serves as the principal academic lead for health-focused research and innovation within the Cisco–La Trobe partnership.

The appointment comes at a significant time for La Trobe University, which has adopted an AI-first strategy as part of its 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. By 2030, the University aims to integrate AI across all courses and enable staff to routinely use AI tools in teaching, research, and operations.

Key objectives of the Chair include:

- Leading translational AI research in health systems.
- Building multidisciplinary research teams.
- Developing partnerships with healthcare, industry, and government.
- Attracting major research and innovation funding.
- Influencing policy and strategy for AI-enabled healthcare.
- Advancing education, executive learning, and research training.

LA TROBE UNIVERSITY AI-FIRST STRATEGY

A UNIVERSITY-WIDE PLATFORM BUILT AROUND HEALTH, SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBLE AI

La Trobe's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan positions the University around three signature strengths — health, science and education — underpinned by innovation and an AI-first mindset across curriculum and research.

AI-FIRST BY DESIGN

- By 2030, staff are intended to use AI tools routinely.
- AI is to be integrated across all courses to support student learning.
- AI-first thinking extends to research, student support and university operations.

WHAT IT MEANS

- Responsible and ethical AI adoption.
- AI integrated across teaching and research.
- AI-skilled graduates and workforce development.
- Responsible AI standards for discovery, knowledge transfer and commercialisation.
- AI-enabled operational transformation.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR THE CHAIR

The role connects La Trobe's AI-first institutional transformation with its priority strength in health, linking AI-enabled research, education, clinical translation, industry partnerships and workforce development.

CISCO AT LA TROBE

AN INTEGRATED UNIVERSITY–INDUSTRY ECOSYSTEM FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION, TALENT AND SCALE

Position Context

La Trobe University and Cisco have established one of Australia's leading university–industry partnerships in artificial intelligence, digital innovation and applied research. Since 2019, the partnership has evolved into an integrated ecosystem spanning world-class research, industry collaboration, student innovation, workforce development and translational impact.

Through complementary **Cisco Chairs**, the **Cisco-La Trobe Centre for AI & IoT**, **Innovation Central Melbourne (ICM),** the **National Industry Innovation Network (NIIN), Eagleworks and the Digital Innovation Hub (DIH)**, **the partnership provides a nationally connected innovation ecosystem that accelerates research translation, industry collaboration, talent development and the adoption of AI-enabled solutions to address complex industry and societal challenges**. Research Chairs are embedded in an ecosystem that links universities, industry, and government partners to co-design, pilot, and scale digital solutions addressing Australia’s most pressing challenges.

HOW THE ECOSYSTEM CREATES IMPACT

- Industry-collaborative AI research.
- Translation into demonstrations and pilots.
- Innovation and commercialisation pathways.
- Multidisciplinary research and external engagement.
- Cisco Academy and authentic industry experiences.

THE SCHOOL

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES (SCEMS)

Photo: Melbourne Bundoora campus

A multidisciplinary School connecting computing, engineering and mathematical sciences with industry and real-world impact

The School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (SCEMS) brings together three departments across computing, engineering, and mathematical and physical sciences. Its strong combination of academic expertise, industry-engaged education and applied research provides an excellent environment for advancing AI-enabled health systems and translating research into impact.

The Chair will join the Cisco–La Trobe Centre for AI and IoT, a flagship research centre within SCEMS. SCEMS has a strategic focus on AI that reshapes teaching and learning, accelerates innovation ventures and commercialisation pathways, and strengthens research and industry partnerships.

SCEMS RESEARCH STRENGTHS

- Artificial intelligence and data science
- Smart sensor technology and connected systems
- Cybersecurity and digital trust
- Mathematical modelling and analytics
- Engineering and advanced manufacturing
- Cross-disciplinary research in health and wellbeing

SCEMS RESEARCH CENTRES AND COMMUNITY

- Cisco-La Trobe Centre for Artificial Intelligence and IoT
- Australian Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Medical Innovation (ACAMI)
- Centre for Technology Infusion (CTI)
- Research partnerships spanning industry and healthcare
- Pathways from research through demonstration, translation and commercialisation
- A research community of around 200 PhD and Master by Research candidates

SCEMS is already positioned at the intersection of AI, digital health and industry collaboration, with two Industry Research Chairs in AI and digital health and established centers supporting multidisciplinary research and translation. This provides a strong base for the Cisco Chair for AI in Health Systems to connect AI capability with healthcare systems opportunities.

POSITION DUTIES

An established leader who connects AI expertise with health-system impact

- **Provide leadership in AI-enabled health systems**; lead translational research that transforms AI discoveries into real-world improvements in healthcare systems, clinical practice, and patient outcomes; build multidisciplinary research teams; attract significant industry or external research funding; influence policy and strategy in AI-driven healthcare transformation.
- **Build collaborative and sustainable relationships** with, and act as expert advisor/consultant to, industry and other external organisations, with a particular focus on Cisco and its industry partners along with La Trobe's healthcare partners in metropolitan and regional Victoria.
- **Promote and represent the University and discipline/profession** by participating in appropriate local, national and international organisations and events.
- **Lead curriculum innovation**, including short-courses, master classes and executive education, in AI-enabled health systems; supervise HDR students; mentor early career and clinician researchers; embed authentic industry experiences into teaching through Cisco Academy and ICM.
- **Innovation Central Melbourne (ICM):** Provide academic leadership for AI in health innovation delivered through ICM supported by the ICM Director; develop and deliver industry projects; contribute to governance and strategic planning; showcase innovation through the Digital Innovation Hub.
- **Cisco–La Trobe Centre for AI and IoT**: Work closely with the Cisco Chair for AI and IoT, the Cisco Industry Alumni/Professor of Practice, and colleagues across the Centre to co-develop and deliver an integrated research and innovation agenda spanning AI, IoT and health systems; establish joint initiatives that harness AI and IoT capabilities to advance health systems research and translation; and contribute to the Centre's strategic planning and national and international profile.
- **Industry & Cisco Partnership**: Act as the flagship academic representative of the Cisco–La Trobe partnership; develop strategic initiatives with Cisco and ecosystem partners; engage hospitals, government agencies and industry; contribute executive briefings, showcases and strategic reports.
- **Collaboration across the NIIN Network**: Collaborate with other Research Chairs, Innovation Centrals, Industry Alumni, and NIIN Alliances to create cross-program synergies. Support joint projects and shared outputs across NIIN partners where opportunities for co-investment or amplification exist.
- **Represent Cisco at Cisco customer and/or media events**. These events may include: Executive Sessions (e.g. Strategic Advisory Board, Executive Collective), internal Cisco sessions, select customer engagements across private enterprise and government, and media commentary as required.
- **Provide reports in support of the Cisco business strategy**, supported by the ICM Director and Cisco Industry Alumni/Professor of Practice.
- **Promote the Cisco-La Trobe University partnership** in the AI for health systems where possible and relevant, at all public-facing engagements as well as on public social and online forums.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- **A PhD or an equivalent combination of outstanding professional achievement**, executive leadership and recognised expertise in: AI, and healthcare systems or a closely related field.
- Demonstrated success in **translating research, technology or innovation** into measurable impact through industry, healthcare, government or commercial partnerships.
- A strong track record of **developing strategic partnerships and leading collaborative initiatives** involving universities, industry, healthcare organisations, government agencies or international partners.
- Demonstrated track record of **securing significant industry partners and attracting industry project investment** at the intersection of AI and health systems, health informatics, digital health or a closely related field, with achievement appropriate to appointment at Level D.
- Demonstrated **effective leadership** and management experience in building and leading teams.
- Demonstrated track record of **attracting external research, development or innovation funding** through competitive grants, contracts and/or consultancies; and the financial management of grants.
- Evidence of achievement in fostering, **mentoring and supporting the development of others**, including early career staff.
- Evidence of **leadership in training, teaching and/or curriculum developmen**t.
- Excellent **interpersonal skills**, especially the capacity to work collaboratively and cooperatively

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATIONS CLOSE TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2026

Apply through the La Trobe University Jobs portal.
https://careers.pageuppeople.com/533/caw/en/job/570949/cisco-chair-for-ai-in-health-systems

Enquiries

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