



Position Description

Research Fellow in Digital Agricultural Futures

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research

Gulbali Institute

Classification	Level B
Special conditions	Located in Mildura at the One Basin Regional Hub Interstate travel for up to 2 weeks at a time
Workplace agreement	Charles Sturt University Enterprise Agreement
Date last reviewed	September 2024



Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research is responsible for leading Charles Sturt University's research agenda to enhance research impact, output and engagement. This includes research training, partnerships, innovation, and commercialisation. A key focus is the development and implementation of strategies in these areas that increase capability, quality and impact in accordance with the goals of the university. The portfolio also includes First Nations engagement, which is a key area of importance for Charles Sturt.

Gulbali Institute – Agriculture, Water and the Environment

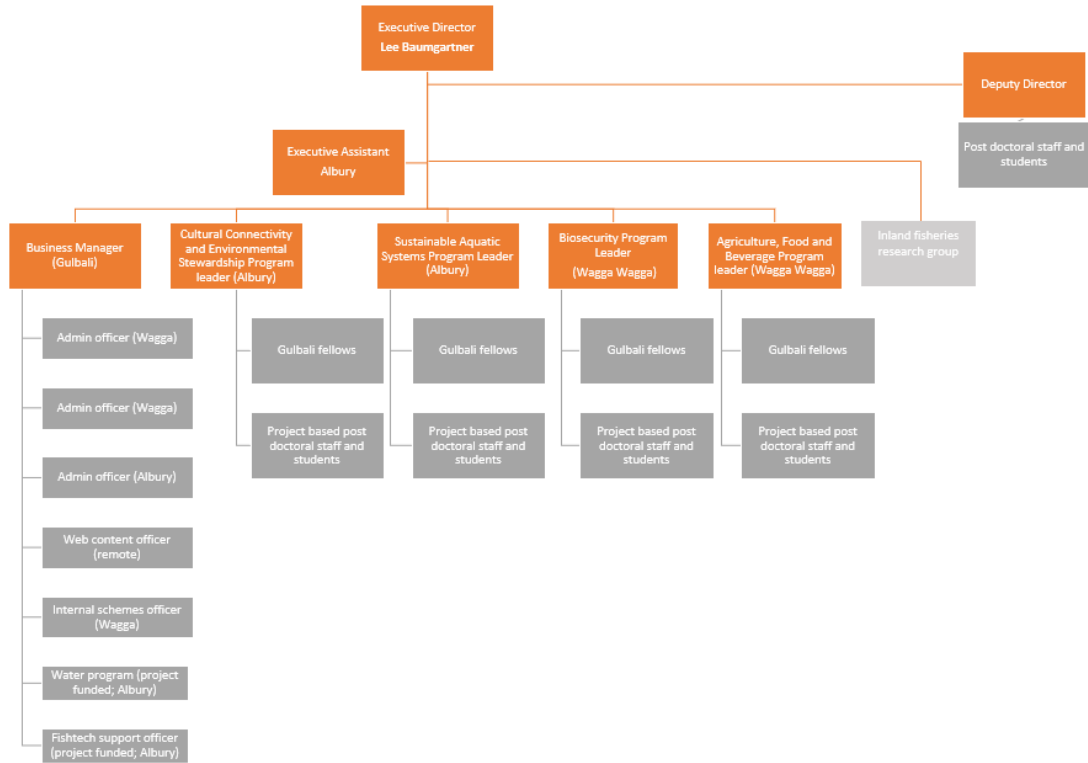
Charles Sturt University is a community minded organisation with strong links to industry, government and other educational organisations through research and courses. Our vision is to be Australia's leading regional university, advancing the careers of our students, inspiring research excellence and driving regional outcomes with goal impact. We collaborate with our partners on research with global impact. Charles Sturt's research in Agriculture, Water and the Environment (AWE) has been targeted for strategic investment, with the University committed to driving research which has impact across Australia and globally.

The key pillar of this strategic investment in AWE research is the establishment of the Gulbali Institute. The Gulbali Institute will create integrated AWE research which is grounded in our footprint across the Murray-Darling Basin. The Gulbali Institute will focus on our research strengths in the areas of optimising farm systems for performance and sustainability; and enhancing the health and resilience of freshwater ecosystems. But we also recognise that it is important to recognise that Country is not just about land 'environment' it also includes social and spiritual aspects that influence the mind and the body.

The Institute brings together multidisciplinary research teams, enabling a holistic approach to research that provides solutions that are comprehensive, authoritative, and reflective of our economic, natural and social aspirations. The Institute will focus on research that addresses major national challenges and government, industry, and community strategic imperatives. Our multidisciplinary approach together with the application of an innovation framework, will lead to the translation of research into viable industry partnerships.



Organisational chart – Gulbali Institute



Reporting relationship

This position reports to: Project Chief Investigator: Professor Oenology

This position supervises: Nil

Key working relationships

- Project Joint Chief Investigator: Associate Professor School of Teacher Education
- SuniTAFE Mildura, Project Industry Lead
- One Basin CRC (funders)



Position overview

The Research Fellow will contribute to a university research team to investigate the educational requirements, and best practise delivery systems for training future workforce participants in digital irrigated agriculture. This position will be located in Mildura in the One Basin Regional Hub and will require extensive travel within the Murray-Darling water catchment areas. The project team will liaise and work closely with two concurrent projects funded by the One Basin CRC that seek to increase the value of digital irrigation.

The digital irrigation workforce futures program will investigate the role and importance of stakeholder digital literacy for the irrigated agricultural value chain. A key research paradigm is understanding how digital literacy can be developed through appropriate educational frameworks and novel delivery models relevant for contemporary agricultural enterprises. Developing in depth understanding of the knowledge and skill requirements for digital literacy for stakeholders along the irrigated agriculture value chain, and testing educational delivery approaches with multiple stakeholders will be important research activities for ensuring a capable and responsive future workforce in irrigation agriculture.

Principal responsibilities

- Adhere to undertaking project activities and successfully complete outputs of the digital agriculture workforce futures project in accordance with the approved schedules of the projects.
- Conduct ethical, high quality research and contribute to knowledge through scholarship, publication and presentations aligned to the program objectives including pursuing funding opportunities.
- Proactively develop and foster strong professional relationships with a range of stakeholders including researchers, community, industry, educational providers at secondary, VET/TAFE and university level to provide timely and appropriate consultation and feedback to program investigators.
- Actively contribute to collaborative processes to design, deliver and continually improve high quality research programs, including ethics approvals, data collection, assimilation and reporting relevant to the program objectives and deliverables.
- Actively contribute to high performing multi disciplinary teams with an outcome focus and the development of a respectful, trusting and collaborative working environment.
- Identify and create opportunities for collaborative research projects with internal and external researchers and stakeholders.
- Prepare co-authored manuscripts, and contribute to progress and final reporting of project.
- Other duties appropriate to the classification as required



Role-specific capabilities

Network	Bring people together and build relationships that deliver desired benefits and outcomes
Listen Closely	Dig deep to understand others, using self-insight to build team spirit and recognise efforts
Applying expertise and technology	Applying, developing and sharing specialist and detailed technical expertise, understanding other organisational disciplines
Presenting and Communicating Information	Speaking clearly and fluently, expressing opinions, making presentations, responding to an audience, showing credibility
Writing and Reporting	Writing clearly, succinctly and correctly, convincing through writing, avoiding jargon, structuring information
Analysing	Analysing Information, probing for clarity, producing solutions, making judgements, thinking systemically
Learning and Researching	Learning rapidly, gathering information, understanding rapidly, managing knowledge, ensuring organisational learning approach
Planning and Organising	Setting objectives, planning, establishing contingencies, managing time, resources and people, monitoring progress
Achieving Personal Work Goals and Objectives	Accepting and tackling demanding goals, working hard, making the most of development opportunities, seeks progression

Physical capabilities

The incumbent may be required to perform the following.

- Work in other environments beyond your base campus, such as other campuses.
- On occasion drive a vehicle distances up to 500km per day within the terms of the university's [Driver Safety Guidelines](#)
- Perform in an accurate and timely manner push/pull, reaching, grasping, fine manipulation tasks, including lifting items up to 10kg.



Selection criteria

Applicants are expected to address the selection criteria when applying for this position.

Essential

- A. A PhD in education delivery, pedagogy, tiered learning systems or other discipline appropriate to the project, or equivalent accreditation and standing.
- B. A demonstrated record of research achievement, relevant to the discipline, leading to the publication of peer reviewed outcomes and project reports.
- C. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of education delivery gained through industry experience and/or scholarly activities or similar.
- D. Demonstrated oral communication and interpersonal skills including negotiating, presenting, active listening and the giving and receiving of constructive feedback.
- E. Demonstrated ability to build strong partnerships, networks and relationships to achieve professional and team objectives.
- F. Demonstrated capacity to work both collaboratively and independently in a large complex academic setting with an outcome focus.
- G. Current Australian drivers license.

Desirable

- H. Demonstrated capacity to utilise and embrace current and emerging technologies to achieve work objectives.
- I. Knowledge and understanding of intensive agricultural cropping systems, irrigation technology and digital user interfaces to agriculture.