



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Centre for Health Policy  
Melbourne School of Population and Global Health  
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

### Research Assistant/Research Fellow (Health Economics)

POSITION NO	0043130
CLASSIFICATION	Research Assistant Level A or Research Fellow Level B
SALARY	Level A - \$66,809- \$90,657 p.a. (pro rata) Level B - \$95,434 - \$113,323 p.a. (pro rata)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	This is a full time position. Part time may be considered by negotiation.
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed Term position available for two years Fixed term contract type: External Funding
OTHER BENEFITS	<a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits</a>
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to <a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers</a> , select the relevant option ('Current Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Dr Kim Dalziel Tel +61 (0) 401591310 <a href="mailto:kim.dalziel@unimelb.edu.au">kim.dalziel@unimelb.edu.au</a>  <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:  
[about.unimelb.edu.au/careers](http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers)

## ***Position Summary***

Within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health there is an active health economics research and teaching program as part of the multi-disciplinary Centre for Health Policy. For details on current research and activities see: <http://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-health-policy/research-group/health-economics>

We are seeking a health economist to join our group to work on variety of projects that include economic evaluation alongside clinical studies and registries in areas such as diabetes care, cardiac surgery, neonatal intensive care, orthopaedic surgery and cancer. There will also opportunities to contribute to health policy decisions of the Australian Government, through contracts the Centre has to provide economic advice and evaluation services. There will be some scope for undertaking additional complementary health economic research including methodological research.

The position will require postgraduate qualifications in health economics, or in economics with a demonstrated interest in health related research. A track record in conducting research leading to peer review publications is highly desirable. Given the nature of the research, strong quantitative research skills are required such as major in econometric or statistics.

Working as part of research team, you will be expected to support, develop and manage a program of health economics research under direction from Prof Philip Clarke (head) and Kim Dalziel (Deputy). The precise research program for the position will be devised to reflect the skills, experience and research interests of the successful applicant.

## ***1. Key Responsibilities***

### **1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING**

- ▶ With broad direction from supervisors support research activities consistent with the needs of the group and the agreed research program
- ▶ To assist with preparing high quality research outputs in peer review journals including methodological and empirical research findings
- ▶ Collaboration with a multi-disciplinary research team and with researchers
- ▶ Actively participate in professional activities including attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise as required.
- ▶ Participate in training and health economics “outreach” activities of the group with a view to supporting new projects and links
- ▶ Be able to write reports as part of consultancy services that may require working to tight deadlines.
- ▶ Assist with preparing research proposal submissions to external funding bodies.
- ▶ Attend to administrative functions primarily connected with the staff member’s area of research and for the research group.

**In addition to the above, the Research Fellow, Level B appointee will be required to:**

- ▶ With broad direction from supervisors develop and manage a research program consistent with the needs of the group and the agreed research program
- ▶ To produce high quality research outputs in peer review journals including methodological and empirical research findings

- ▶ To disseminate research findings through presentations at conferences and other public forums
- ▶ Manage training and health economics “outreach” activities of the group with a view to developing new projects and links
- ▶ Provide input into decisions about future studies including the sourcing of potential funds and the development of grant applications
- ▶ Prepare materials for ethics submissions and obtain relevant data
- ▶ Supervision of Research Higher Degree students as appropriate

## 1.2 TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ▶ Contribute to and participate in teaching and learning activities in the School as requested including the health economic short courses offered by the centre.

## 1.3 ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Assist with responding to enquiries about health economics from external stakeholders and other clinical groups, including enquiries from external researchers wishing to have health economic input into their studies.

**In addition to the above, the Research Fellow, Level B appointee will be required to:**

- ▶ Respond to enquiries about health economics from external stakeholders and other clinical groups, including enquiries from external researchers wishing to have health economic input into their studies.

## 1.4 SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Provide service to the University and actively participate in meetings and committees as appropriate.
- ▶ Other duties commensurate with the position as directed by the Supervisor.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4.

The responsibilities as specified above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.

# 2. Selection Criteria

## 2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Honours level or Masters level qualification in a relevant discipline (Economics, Health Economics, Health Services Research)
- ▶ Experience contributing to peer review publications, conference presentations and the preparation of research grant applications commensurate with opportunity.
- ▶ Quantitative research experience including writing research proposals, conducting literature reviews, conducting research and writing manuscripts.
- ▶ Relevant research experience includes conduct of economic evaluation, health technology assessment or analysis of cost data
- ▶ Demonstrated high level skills related to collection, collation and analysis of health data.

- ▶ Demonstrated high level communication skills (written and verbal)
- ▶ A demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team environment

**In addition to the above, the Research Fellow, Level B appointee will be required to:**

- ▶ Postgraduate qualifications in health economics or in economics with a demonstrated experience in health related research.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to write and conduct research including the publication of articles in peer-review journals.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work within a research team to achieve project goals and meet deadlines
- ▶ Quantitative research skills such as a major in econometric or statistics.
- ▶ Willingness to participate in teaching of short courses and to develop materials to promote the use of health economics in a wide variety of health economic studies within University of Melbourne and affiliated institutes and hospitals.

## 2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ PhD in a relevant discipline (Economics, Health Economics, Health Services Research)
- ▶ Qualification in health economics or econometrics or statistics.
- ▶ Experience with analysis of linked data sets including use of STATA.
- ▶ Demonstrated knowledge of the health and welfare sectors, including pertinent data sources.
- ▶ Experience attracting research grants or funding
- ▶ Experience publishing peer reviewed research publications
- ▶ Experience in health technology assessment, including in preparing evaluation reports for industry or government

**In addition to the above, the Research Fellow, Level B appointee will be required to have:**

- ▶ PhD in health economics or in economics with a demonstrated interest in health related research.
- ▶ Superior communication and interpersonal skills
- ▶ A track record in conducting independent research leading to peer review publications in specialist health economic journals or high impact medical journals.
- ▶ Experience in working and analysing health economic related data sets.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work with researchers from other disciplines including, but not restricted to the areas of epidemiology, biostatistics and clinical medicine
- ▶ Experience in the supervision or co-supervision of postgraduate students and more junior research staff.
- ▶ Previous experience in teaching and learning in health economics.

## 2.3 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ May involve some local and or international travel.

# 3. Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the University's People Strategy 2015-2020 and policies that address diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people's age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to service for excellence and reach the targets of Growing Esteem.

## **4. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)**

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

<http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

## **5. Other Information**

### **5.1 CENTRE FOR HEALTH POLICY**

The Centre for Health Policy (formerly Centre for Health Policy Programs and Economic) undertakes evaluations of health policy at international, national, state and local levels.

The Centre for Health Policy has four streams: Evaluation and Implementation science, Health economics, Law and Public Health and Demography and Ageing. The centre has attracted over \$67 million in funding from key granting bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australian Research Council (ARC) and from organisations such as Commonwealth and state/territory health departments that fund contract research. The mission of the CHP is to contribute to the health of the community through research, teaching and service relevant to health policy and programs. It aims to achieve this mission by improving the community's ability to critically evaluate the performance and funding of health policy and health programs. It also includes methodological development, exemplary practice and a varied program of teaching and

training. More information on CHP can found at: <http://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-health-policy>

## 5.2 THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH

The Melbourne School of Population Health was established in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences in 2001. It became the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health in 2013. Over 300 academic and professional staff work in the School and through its partner agencies. The School's total budget is in excess of \$50m. There are approximately 120 higher degree research students (predominantly PhD). The School aims to strengthen the understanding, capacity and services of society to meet population health needs and to improve the quality and equity of health care. It employs a population health framework that incorporates public health and preventative medicine, health promotion, clinical medicine and allied healthcare disciplines and an equity and evidence-based approach to health care and health policy. Its research programs aim to elucidate the genetic, environmental, social and economic determinants of health, and to focus on the evaluation of the health systems, programs and services that seek to prevent disease and injury and to promote health. The School provides research and professional development opportunities for medical undergraduates, postgraduates in a wide range of disciplines, clinicians in all sectors of the health care industry, scientists, professionals and leaders in population health.

The School is currently composed of four Centres, one Institute and two partnership units:

- ▶ Centres
  - Centre for Health Equity (CHE)
  - Centre for Health Policy (CHP)
  - Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CEB)
  - Centre for Mental Health (CMH)
- ▶ Institutes
  - The Nossal Institute for Global Health (NIGH)
- ▶ Partnership Units
  - Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group (VIRGo)
  - Global Burden of Disease Group

Further information about the School is available at <http://www.mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/>

## 5.3 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

[www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences has an enviable research record and is the University of Melbourne's largest faculty in terms of management of financial resources, employment of academic and professional staff, teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate (including research higher degree) students and the conduct of basic and applied research. The Faculty's annual revenue is \$628m with approximately 55% of this income related to research activities.

The Faculty has a student teaching load in excess of 8,500 equivalent full-time students including more than 1,300 research higher degree students. The Faculty has

approximately 2,195 staff comprising 642 professional staff and 1,553 research and teaching staff.

The Faculty has appointed Australia's first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University – wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty's RAP will address Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

#### 5.4 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide-range of knowledge-based industries. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded.

Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers>.

#### 5.5 GROWING ESTEEM, THE MELBOURNE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH AT MELBOURNE: ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT TO 2025

Growing Esteem describes Melbourne's strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership>

The University is at the forefront of Australia's changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Curriculum. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

The University's global aspirations seek to make significant contributions to major social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, the University's research strategy *Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025* aspires to a significant advancement in the excellence and impact of its research outputs.

<http://research.unimelb.edu.au/our-research/research-at-melbourne>

The strategy recognises that as a public-spirited, research-intensive institution of the future, the University must strive to make a tangible impact in Australia and the world, working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and building deeper and more

substantive engagement with industry, collaborators and partners. While cultivating the fundamental enabling disciplines through investigator-driven research, the University has adopted three grand challenges aspiring to solve some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century. These Grand Challenges include:

- ▶ Understanding our place and purpose – The place and purpose grand challenge centres on understanding all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on Australia's 'place' in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and on our 'purpose' or mission to improve all dimensions of the human condition through our research.
- ▶ Fostering health and wellbeing – The health and wellbeing grand challenge focuses on building the scale and breadth of our capabilities in population and global health; on harnessing our contribution to the 'convergence revolution' of biomedical and health research, bringing together the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences; and on addressing the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing by looking beyond the traditional boundaries of biomedicine.
- ▶ Supporting sustainability and resilience – The sustainability and resilience grand challenge addresses the critical issues of climate change, water and food security, sustainable energy and designing resilient cities and regions. In addition to the technical aspects, this grand challenge considers the physical and social functioning of cities, connecting physical phenomena with lessons from our past, and the implications of the technical solutions for economies, living patterns and behaviours.

Essential to tackling these challenges, an outstanding faculty, high performing students, wide collaboration including internationally and deep partnerships with external parties form central components of Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025.

## 5.6 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance>