



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Melbourne Graduate School of Education

### The Gerry Higgins Chair in Positive Psychology

<b>POSITION NO</b>	0044718
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Professor, Level E
<b>SALARY</b>	Attractive remuneration package
<b>SUPERANNUATION</b>	Employer contribution of 17%
<b>WORKING HOURS</b>	Full-time (1.0 FTE)
<b>BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>	Fixed term position for 5 years Work focus category: Research Only
<b>OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits</a>
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	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.
<b>CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY</b>	Professor Lesley Farrell Tel +61 3 903 54801 Email: <a href="mailto:lesley.farrell@unimelb.edu.au">lesley.farrell@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***

The Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) is at the forefront of innovation in education, working with partners in schools, early childhood settings, communities, government and beyond, constantly seeking new and improved ways to support Australia's education system. In 2008 we launched the innovative Master of Teaching which utilises a clinical teaching model which truly links academic theory with classroom practice.

Positioned as a research centre within the MGSE, the Centre for Positive Psychology (CPP) seeks to advance the wellbeing of young people through the application of positive psychology, particularly in education systems. CPP has grown rapidly over recent years, with over 12 academic staff, 25 PhD students and solid growth in courses ranging across undergraduate, customised programs, Masters and PhD level. Embedded within Australia's #1 University and #1 Faculty of Education, it aims to become the pre-eminent centre in the Asia Pacific region for research and application of positive psychology/education.

A full-time appointment for 5 years will be made for the Gerry Higgins Chair in Positive Psychology within the CPP of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. The Professor appointed in the Gerry Higgins Chair in Positive Psychology will contribute their exceptional pedagogical and scholarly expertise, strategic planning and academic management to the refinement and enhancement of student opportunities to build and deliver world class academic programs in the field of positive psychology.

Reporting to the Director of the CPP, the Professor of Positive Psychology will utilise their proven leadership qualities to help influence excellent outcomes for teaching and learning in the positive psychology domain for The University of Melbourne and develop excellence in others, through leading by example and mentoring of staff. The Professor of Positive Psychology works with senior colleagues to set directions for the future of the Centre for Positive Psychology, developing research programs and initiatives using multidisciplinary approaches that take advantage of the research culture within the MGSE.

The appointee will be well-respected within the positive psychology academic and professional communities with a specialisation that aligns closely with the Centre for Positive Psychology's goal of making a sustained impact upon the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of Australian society. The successful candidate will also bring a track record in academic engagement with the vision and capacity to help shape and build the future of the Centre of Positive Psychology and with a strong international presence and passion for the development and implementation of research, training and clinical teaching programs in the field of positive psychology.

A key contribution of the Professor is to influence and stimulate public debate and policy through engagement with local and international professional communities, furthering links with government, industry and the profession. The Professor will build upon, and contribute to, a research program which has attracted substantial research and / or consultancy funding, and maintain a significant international profile in practice, publications and presentations.

The Professor will also represent the Faculty in their profession through regular engagement in public consultation around the potential futures of both Melbourne and Victoria.

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

### **1.1 RESEARCH (ADVANCEMENT OF THE DISCIPLINE)**

- ▶ Pursuit of excellence in the field of positive psychology through leadership of research programs with a national and international profile that develops and disseminates research-based knowledge.

- ▶ Continuing publication of the results of original research and other scholarly endeavours in refereed journals, books, monographs, reports, refereed conference proceedings and other publications of high international standing.
- ▶ Contribution to the development and growth of academic staff in the Centre for Positive Psychology and in the MGSE more generally
- ▶ Development of collaborative research projects funded by competitive research grants.

## 1.2 ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Further build the relationships of the Centre for Positive Psychology and MGSE more generally within the University and beyond.
- ▶ Establishment and maintenance of networks with other Universities and researchers in the field.
- ▶ Contribution to the development of policies and practices in the national arena, through undertaking funded consultancy projects.
- ▶ Establishment and maintenance of networks with other centres and researchers in the field.

## 1.3 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- ▶ Support and mentoring for the career development of the staff of the MGSE.
- ▶ Support of the strategic directions and management of the University and Graduate School of Education through membership of relevant committees.
- ▶ Provide guest lectures, keynotes and occasional teaching activities across a range of subjects and programs offered by the MGSE.
- ▶ Undertaking of management roles as negotiated with the Dean
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5.

## 1.4 DONOR ENGAGEMENT

The appointee is responsible for active, meaningful and sustained engagement with donor/s of the philanthropically supported position, including, where appropriate, through:

- ▶ Consistent use of the endowment title in all official correspondence, communications and publicity;
- ▶ Annual reporting on the appointee's activities, contributions and achievements against the responsibilities and expectations of the position (to be included in annual endowment/impact reports to the donor/s);
- ▶ Regular contact with the donor/s, providing updates and advice on activities, contributions and achievements relevant to the position, including in partnership with the Advancement Office; and
- ▶ Active participation in communications, publicity and events resulting in meaningful engagement with the donor, including in partnership with the Advancement Office.

## ***2. Selection Criteria***

### **2.1 ESSENTIAL**

- ▶ A PhD qualification complemented by a successful record of securing substantial competitive research grants with successfully delivered projects, and a strong record of academic publications or critically assessed projects and professional recognition.
- ▶ A record of success in teaching and learning at university level, including the development and delivery of courses in positive psychology, and a record of successful research higher degree.
- ▶ A record of providing high level leadership in a changing environment, ensuring a capacity to make a major contribution to the intellectual and organisational life of the MGSE and University.
- ▶ A distinguished career in research, policy and / or practice in a field of positive psychology with a demonstrated passion for the field.
- ▶ The capacity to work collaboratively with colleagues both within and outside the University with the ability to establish effective professional networks and engage meaningfully with stakeholders.
- ▶ A proven ability to lead change, with outstanding interpersonal skills and demonstrated capacity to motivate, persuade and negotiate.

### **2.2 DESIRABLE**

- ▶ A record of receiving significant funding from consultancies and external sources.
- ▶ Experience in the development and evaluation of eLearning environments and resources.

## ***3. Special Requirements***

N/A

## ***4. 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.

## **5. 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.

## **6. Other Information**

### **6.1 ORGANISATION UNIT**

Melbourne Graduate School of Education

### **6.2 BUDGET DIVISION**

#### *Our Vision:*

A society in which education enables full and equitable participation.

#### *Our Mission*

Through effective collaborations, we will deliver:

- ▶ relevant, high quality, high impact research
- ▶ research-informed, clinical teacher education that develops graduates with the capacity to inspire and improve individual learning outcomes
- ▶ outstanding quality postgraduate studies for professionals.

The Melbourne Graduate School of Education (MGSE) is Australia's number 1 and among the world's finest for Education (QS World Rankings by Subject).

MGSE is a hub of high impact research and teaching. Home to a number of internationally recognised experts, we are at the cutting edge of teaching and research in our field.

Part of the University of Melbourne's Parkville campus, we are based at 234 Queensberry Street and 100 Leicester Street. Our buildings are designed specifically for graduate education students, offering a range of contemporary learning and social spaces.

Our flagship Master of Teaching is based on a clinical approach to teaching, and is a significant shift away from traditional approaches to teacher education. We also offer a range of professional development and higher degree research courses for people working in education and related professions. A large number of significant research projects are based here, and we work closely with local, national and international partners on a wide range of projects across education and related disciplines.

For more information about us, visit: [education.unimelb.edu.au](http://education.unimelb.edu.au)

### **6.3 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>.

#### 6.4 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.

## 6.5 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>