



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Faculty of Arts

### Gerry Higgins Chair in Irish Studies

POSITION NO	0042623
CLASSIFICATION	Professor, Level E
SALARY	\$181,308 p.a.
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 17%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Continuing
OTHER BENEFITS	<a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits</a>
HOW TO APPLY	PLEASE DO NOT APPLY via the University website. The University has engaged The Insight Group, Executive Search Consultants, to assist in this recruitment. Please email your application including Cover letter, CV and a document addressing the selection criteria to: <a href="mailto:applications@insightgroup.com.au">applications@insightgroup.com.au</a>
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Dr Rohan Carr, Director or Ms Emily Witts, Principal, The Insight Group. Tel: +61 3 9654 3288 Email: <a href="mailto:rohancarr@insightgroup.com.au">rohancarr@insightgroup.com.au</a> Email: <a href="mailto:emilywitts@insightgroup.com.au">emilywitts@insightgroup.com.au</a>

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 Gerry Higgins Chair of Irish Studies was established in 1999 through a generous donation for the purposes of promoting interest and education in Irish Studies, including the influence of the Irish in Australia. The Chair is named after Gerry Higgins, who emigrated from Connemara in Ireland and established Higgins Coatings, a commercial painting business in Melbourne. The Chair was established to promote teaching and research in Irish Studies, including, without limitation, arts & culture, literature & theatre studies, medieval studies, music, social and religious studies. In view of the fact that both previous appointments were located within the History discipline of the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, other disciplinary fields and schools will take priority this time. In addition to disciplinary specialization, the Faculty encourages applicants with interdisciplinary expertise and a willingness to develop and promote Irish Studies in a local and global framework extending to areas such as colonial and contemporary culture, migration and diasporic studies. It is also a post that requires an active engagement in the activities of Newman College including Melbourne Irish Studies and Gerry Higgins Irish Library.

The Gerry Higgins Fund supports teaching, scholarship and engagement in Irish Studies within the Faculty. It also supports, if net annual income allows, postgraduate fellowships to the value of 10 per cent of the net annual income.

The appointee is expected to make significant contributions to teaching, research and engagement within the field of Irish Studies. For the purposes of line management, the Chair will be located within the School housing the primary disciplinary field of the appointee. The appointee will be expected to contribute to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and will initiate, perform and supervise research in Irish Studies, as defined above. A principal duty of the successful appointee will be to foster interdisciplinary activities in Irish Studies in respect to postgraduate education, research and community engagement within the Faculty of Arts.

The application calls for candidates for the position who are at Level E, professorial level but also encourages high-performing Level D applicants.

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

A Level E academic will make an outstanding contribution to the research and/or scholarship and/or teaching and administration activities of an organisational unit, including a large organizational unit, or interdisciplinary area. A Level E academic will make an outstanding contribution to governance and collegial life, inside and outside, of the institution and will have attained recognition at a national or international level in his or her discipline. He or she will make original and innovative contributions to the advancement of scholarship, research and teaching in his or her discipline.

The key responsibilities of this position are to:

- ▶ Research, Teaching and Engagement in the area of Irish Studies
- ▶ Publications arising from scholarship and research in excess of Faculty minimum expectations'
- ▶ Be successful in gaining nationally competitive grants
- ▶ Supervise honours and postgraduate students as required
- ▶ Develop a postgraduate program in Irish Studies, as funds from the Higgins Trust allow
- ▶ Lead efforts to raise the teaching and research profile of Irish Studies at the University

- ▶ Actively participate and lead in the development of research seminars and conferences
- ▶ Undertake a significant role in research projects including, where appropriate, leadership of a research team
- ▶ Develop and/or enhance infrastructures to facilitate collegial decision-making within the School and promote transparency
- ▶ Work towards ensuring the sustainability of Irish Studies by developing programs to secure funds
- ▶ Any other duties relevant to the position.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4

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

### **2.1 ESSENTIAL**

- ▶ A PhD in a discipline relevant to Irish Studies
- ▶ A publication record that has achieved international acclaim
- ▶ A willingness and capacity to develop and encourage Irish Studies within an interdisciplinary framework at the University and especially within the Faculty of Arts
- ▶ A willingness and capacity to respond to and develop community interest in Irish Studies, taking account of teaching and research trends both within and outside Ireland
- ▶ Ability to support the educational activities of Newman College, including a willingness and capacity to participate in the life of the college
- ▶ Demonstrated excellence in teaching, research and engagement Irish Studies, especially at postgraduate level, and including the development of academic programs nationally and internationally
- ▶ Demonstrated capacity to interact positively with academic and professional staff; and
- ▶ Demonstrated excellence in leadership and management, including the capacity to contribute to strategic planning to advance Irish Studies in the faculty and university.

### **2.2 DESIRABLE**

- ▶ Experience in the development and management of budgets and strategic planning
- ▶ Wide understanding of the role of, and future challenges for, Irish Studies in Australia, and willingness and capacity to play a leadership role within Australia
- ▶ Demonstrated record of national and international professional and research relationships
- ▶ Experience in management of staff and of a department, school or research centre.

## ***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 BUDGET DIVISION**

<http://www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>

The Faculty of Arts is one of the largest faculties at the University of Melbourne, with over 8,000 students and 400 staff. It is home to the Melbourne Bachelor of Arts, the most popular degree in Victoria based on the first preferences of school leavers, and home to the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, which offers 16 professionally oriented masters programs and a range of research degrees.

The Faculty of Arts is a world-leading institution for research and teaching in a range of disciplines in the humanities, social sciences and languages. The Faculty is ranked 38th in the world for Arts and Humanities and 23rd in the world for Social Sciences (Times Higher Education Supplement 2016). It maintains strong connections with leading international universities through research collaborations and student exchange programs, and nurtures relationships with government and private organisations through student internship placements, research projects and community engagement.

As well as housing the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Arts also comprises five schools:

- ▶ Asia Institute

- ▶ School of Culture and Communication
- ▶ School of Historical and Philosophical Studies
- ▶ School of Languages and Linguistics
- ▶ School of Social and Political Studies

Our students and staff are supported by business units within the Faculty including:

- ▶ The Office of the Dean
- ▶ The Arts Student Centre
- ▶ The Arts Business Centre (comprising Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, e- teaching and Facilities Management and EHS)
- ▶ Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (comprising services such as student support, marketing, recruitment, partnerships and alumni relations).

For more information on the Faculty please see [www.arts.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.arts.unimelb.edu.au)

## 5.2 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>.

## 5.3 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.

#### 5.4 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>