



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of Rural Health
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Casual Research Assistant

POSITION NO	0040901, 0040902
CLASSIFICATION	Casual Research Assistant Grade 2
SALARY	Casual \$44.77 per hour
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
EMPLOYMENT TYPE	Two casual positions, approximately 25 hours per week for 3 month periods between July 2016 and June 2018.
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
CURRENT OCCUPANT	New
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , select the relevant option ('Current Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number. Indigenous Australian job seekers are encouraged to apply.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Dr Kristen Glenister Tel +61 3 5720 1701 Email kristen.glenister@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our websites:

about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Position Summary

Reporting to the Project Manager within the Department of Rural Health (DRH), the Research Assistant will work on a project focussed on chronic disease and population health in rural Victoria. This project has been funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC), in partnership with regional health services. This position involves data collection for a large scale, interview based research project to be conducted in 4 towns in regional Victoria. The research assistant will work as part of a team under the supervision of the Project manager. The Research Assistant will demonstrate knowledge of chronic disease, population health, primary health, general practice, rural health or experience in conducting interviews/surveys

The project will run from mid 2016 to mid 2018, and will involve data collection in Shepparton, Benalla, Cobram and Seymour. The Research assistant could nominate to work in one of these locations, or all of these locations.

1. Selection Criteria

1.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Tertiary education in a health or social science field and/or relevant work experience in primary health or social welfare.
- ▶ Excellent verbal communication skills, including excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate with diverse types of people
- ▶ Demonstrated resilience, determination and initiative
- ▶ Demonstrated interest and enthusiasm for the role
- ▶ Demonstrated organisational skills and the ability to undertake several activities whilst maintaining close attention to detail.
- ▶ Demonstrated research experience.

1.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work in an independent manner and to work as part of a team
- Desirable
- ▶ Interview, census or data collection experience
- ▶ Research experience

2. Special Requirements

- ▶ A current driver's license conforming to State legislation is required as travel to locations not accessible by public transport will be required.

3. Key Responsibilities

- ▶ Undertake interview based data collection in the community
- ▶ Communicate with household members effectively to ask a range of health-related questions
- ▶ Record responses electronically
- ▶ Accurately maintain records of fieldwork
- ▶ Work to protocols to ensure safety of yourself and fellow team members
- ▶ Support the research project in other ways as required
- ▶ Maintaining adequate training in interviewing techniques and data quality.
- ▶ Assist with preparation of progress and data quality reports on a monthly basis.
- ▶ Liaise regularly with the Project manager to review project progress.
- ▶ Maintaining excellent data quality and appropriate project progress.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5.

4. Other Information

4.1 DEPARTMENT OF RURAL HEALTH

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

The School of Rural Health was established in February 2002 and became the Department of Rural Health in 2010 when it was incorporated into the Melbourne Medical School. In 2015, the Centre was renamed the Department of Rural Health (DRH), Melbourne Medical School. It currently incorporates the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing designated 'University Department of Rural Health' (1998) and the Rural Clinical School (2001). The Department attracts the majority of its funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing through programs aimed at establishing a rural-focused national network of medical and health professional training. The Department enables undergraduate health professionals to undertake a significant period of their training in rural environments, and provides rural communities with greater access to teaching and research facilities and greater clinical support.

The Department of Rural Health's largest campus is at Shepparton, in buildings adjacent to Goulburn Valley Hospital. It has other major campuses at Ballarat, working closely with Ballarat Health Services, and at Wangaratta, with Northeast Health Wangaratta. Students are also placed in smaller towns. New facilities have been established as part of the Northern Victorian Rural Medical Education Network (NVRMEN) initiative include consulting rooms in general practice, and lecture and skills centre facilities across Northeast Victoria.

Rural Health programs include:

Rural Clinical School (RCS) – one of six University of Melbourne clinical schools developed to teach 25% of students for at least 1 year of their clinical training. The RCS takes approximately 60 Commonwealth supported students each year. Within these numbers the

Extended Rural Cohort (ERC) is comprised 30 students per year recruited from Northern Victoria who spend their entire clinical training time at the RCS.

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing designated 'University Department of Rural Health' (UDRH) – a multidisciplinary, population health-based approach involving partnerships with a range of health providers underlies teaching and research activities. A three week rural health module is compulsory for all University of Melbourne medical students and student placements are organised for medical and allied health students. The UDRH assists the La Trobe University School of Nursing in the delivery of a Bachelor of Nursing Science course in the Shepparton region. Aboriginal health activities are undertaken in partnership with the local Aboriginal community.

The Department of Rural Health also houses the Centre of Excellence in Rural Sexual Health (CERSH) which was established in March 2009.

4.2 MELBOURNE MEDICAL SCHOOL

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

The Melbourne Medical School (MMS) was established in 1862 and has a substantial international reputation for its leadership in teaching and training, health research, policy and practice. The MMS is committed to working with the communities we serve to improve health and advance health care. We will do this through our teaching, learning, research, clinical care and advocacy.

The MMS is composed of eight clinical departments (General Practice, Medical Education, Medicine and Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Rural Health and Surgery) which are embedded within clinical health services throughout metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria.

The MMS delivers a suite of health related graduate programs including the Doctor of Medicine (MD), the first professional entry Masters level medical program in Australia. The Melbourne MD delivers a fresh approach to medical training and creates a new benchmark in 21st century medical education.

The MMS is committed to improving the wellbeing of the community through the discovery and application of new knowledge. The research effort of the school is highly collaborative and spans basic to translational research and involves over 800 graduate researchers and 1000 academic staff.

The MMS also actively participates in the public debate and advocacy around key health issues and policy based on our values of commitment, integrity, compassion, respect and service.

4.1 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) plays a vital role in the delivery of the University of Melbourne's Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Growing Esteem by providing current and future generations with education and research equal to the best in the world. It is Australia's largest and leading biomedical research faculty. It employs more than 1,700 members of staff, has more than 8,000 students, and total revenue of \$607 million for 2015. Reflecting the complexity of today's global health landscape, the Faculty is made up of six different Schools and four Strategic Research Initiatives, and draws together all areas of human health, ranging from the most basic to the most applied areas

of research. The Faculty contributes close to 50 per cent of research conducted at the University.

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.

4.2 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. With outstanding performance in international rankings, Melbourne is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The University of Melbourne is consistently ranked among the world's top universities. Further information about our reputation and global ranking is available at <http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/why-choose-melbourne/reputation-rankings>.

Established in 1853, shortly after the founding of Melbourne, the University is located just a few minutes from the centre of this global city. The main Parkville campus 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.

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>.

4.3 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/index.html#home>

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.

4.4 EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Another key priority for the University is access and equity. The University of Melbourne is strongly committed to an admissions policy that takes the best students, regardless of financial and other disadvantage. An Access, Equity and Diversity Policy Statement, included in the University Plan, reflects this priority.

The University is committed to equal opportunity in education, employment and welfare for staff and students. Students are selected on merit and staff are selected and promoted on merit.

4.5 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/unisec/governance.html>.

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.