



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

Melbourne Law School

### Research Fellow

POSITION NO	0043928
CLASSIFICATION	Research Fellow Grade 1 (Level A)
SALARY	\$69,148 - \$93,830 p.a.
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	Full time (1.0 FTE)
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed-term for up to 5 years
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://hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers">http://hr.unimelb.edu.au/careers</a> , under 'Job Search and Job Alerts', select the relevant option ('Current Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Professor Julian Savulescu Tel +61 3 9936 6469  <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](http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers)  
[joining.unimelb.edu.au](http://joining.unimelb.edu.au)

## ***Position Summary***

The Research Fellow will join a new team working to build a globally recognised programme in ethics as part of a joint initiative between the University of Melbourne Law School and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI). The programme will focus on the ethics and regulation of genetics and other advances in healthcare technologies.

The incumbent will undertake collaborative research with other members of the team on the themes of the grant, as well as working with the team to develop the new programme.

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

#### **1.1 COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH**

The role will include collaborative research on themes relevant to the programme, as well as assisting the Senior Research Fellows and the Chief Investigator, Julian Savulescu, in establishing and developing a new programme including setting up meetings, presenting the outcomes of the research, organising workshops to connect researchers from across disciplines, facilitating the exchange of expertise, and assisting with funding applications.

The focus of the research will be mutually agreed according to the priorities of the programme and the strengths and interests of the candidate. It is expected to have a major focus on the philosophy, ethics, law and/or regulation relation to the use of genome sequencing and gene editing in the context of "precision medicine".

In addition, it will cover at least **some (but not all)** of the following (in rough order of priority):

- Genetic selection, including non-invasive prenatal testing
- Whole genome analysis - embryos, fetuses, newborns:
  - Direct to consumer testing
  - Population screening
  - Feedback of results from research
- Stem cells:
  - Organoids
  - Human nonhuman chimeras
  - Pluripotent stem cell derived gametes, including expanded genetic selection/same sex reproduction
  - Stem cell trials
- Ethics and data science. Replicability and data management inc neuroscience
- Experimental treatments
- Incidental findings
- Bioprediction
- Gene editing in other areas
- Egg freezing
- Neuroenhancement technologies
- Undertake comprehensive and systematic literature reviews.

The Research Fellow may carry out a limited amount of independent research at the discretion of the Chief Investigator, on themes of interest to the Programme, and provided required collaborative research has been undertaken.

## 1.2 OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES / DUTIES:

- Participate in and collaborate on other parts of research activities of the overall programme, including at least two major grant applications, the developing of ideas for generating research income, the preparation of policy papers, as well as involvement in public engagement, event planning and other research-related activities.
- Develop collaborative relationships with other researchers and research groups working in relevant area, with a particular focus on working with scientists and legal researchers both within the Melbourne Law School and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and externally.
- Develop collaborative relationships with the Wellcome Strategic Centre in Ethics and the Humanities and the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford.
- Contribute to public engagement work, including occasional blog posts, preparing material for project websites, and engaging with the media, including writing for popular science or philosophy magazines and websites.
- Present papers and reports at project team meetings, conferences or public meetings.
- Represent the programme at external meetings/seminars, either with other members of the programme or alone.
- Assist with the planning and organisation of workshops, conferences and other events.
- Perform occasional duties as requested by the Chief Investigator, and the Melbourne Law School, such as event organisation, administration and teaching, at the overall discretion of the Supervisor.

## 2. Selection Criteria

### 2.1 ESSENTIAL

- Proven excellent research skills and specialist knowledge, experience and interest in contributing to research on the themes relating to the core research interests of the programme, at the interface of philosophy with contemporary issues in bioethics and the life sciences.
- A strong publication record appropriate to the present stage of career, with evidence of potential for producing distinguished research, including a demonstrated track record of publications in bioethics, applied ethics, health law or related discipline.
- Strong track record in public engagement, popular writing and ability to convey complex scientific ideas to a general public, and engage in ethical discussion of them.
- Evidence of ability to quickly assimilate information and produce accurate summaries of information reviewed and to critically appraise medical and social scientific literature.
- Experience of organising academic events.
- An appropriate postgraduate degree in law, philosophy or other relevant discipline with specialisation in practical ethics, bioethics, or other related discipline or at least have submitted a completed doctoral dissertation.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, organisational and project management skills;
- Ability to work autonomously, as well as in a team;

- Ability to produce high quality written communications;

## **2.2 DESIRABLE**

- Experience of public policy input.
- Experience of writing or contributing to successful grant applications.
- Experience of liaising with philanthropic donors.
- Relevant degrees in law, science or other related disciplines.

## **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

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

Melbourne Law School is Australia's first all-graduate law faculty. The Melbourne Law School was the first faculty in Australia to teach law, and awarded this country's first law degrees. The Law School has now committed itself to build on our more than 150 year history of excellence and innovation by shifting from undergraduate legal education to the global standard, graduate level Juris Doctor degree. Coupled with the unrivalled excellence of the Melbourne Law Masters and its internationally renowned Research Higher Degree programs, the Law School offers a unique opportunity for the integration of scholarship and teaching.

Its faculty is a vibrant community of creative scholars, committed to a highly collegial, research-intensive institutional life. The Law School has particular strengths in cross-disciplinary and comparative analysis. It aims to integrate teaching with research and engagement activities and to engage with local, national and global communities.

The Law School is a single department faculty located in a custom designed building in University Square. The Law School has approximately 2,200 graduate students (including JD, Melbourne Law Masters and Research High Degrees).

#### Research

The international reputation of the School is closely linked to the range and quality of its research programs.

The School has several research Institutes, Centres, Networks and Groups which provide a focus for scholarly interaction, including:

ARC Laureate Program in Constitutional Law
ARC Laureate Program in International Law
Asian Law Centre (ALC)
Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law (APCML)
Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies (CCCS)
Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation (CCLSR)
Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law (CELRL)
Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society (CILIS)
Centre for Media & Communications Law (CMCL)
Competition Law and Economics Network (CLEN)
Centre for Resources Energy and Environmental Law (CREEL)

Civil Justice Research Group (CJRG)
Electoral Regulation Research Network (ERRN)
Family and Children's Law Network
Global Economic Law Network (GELN)
Institute for International Law and the Humanities (IILAH)
Intellectual Property Research Institute of Australia (IPRIA)
Obligations Group (OG)
The Tax Group
Transactional Law

## 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>