



POSITION DESCRIPTION

School of Languages and Linguistics
Faculty of Arts

Indigenous applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for this position.

Postdoctoral Fellow in Indigenous Child Language Development

POSITION NO	0045291
CLASSIFICATION	Level A
SALARY	\$69,148 - \$93,830 p.a
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed-term (1.0 FTE) position available for 2 years Fixed term contract type: Research
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Professor Gillian Wigglesworth Tel +61 3 8344 4215 Email g.wigglesworth@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 website:
about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Position Summary

The ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (COEDL) and the School of Languages and Linguistics seeks to appoint a postdoctoral fellow to undertake research on children's language development in two minority Australian languages, Murrinhpatha and Pitjantjatjara, as part of the Language Learning program. This position is jointly funded by the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language and an ARC Discovery Project Grant awarded to Dr Barbara Kelly and Professor Gillian Wigglesworth.

This position is open to international competition and primarily research-based, offering the possibility of substantial freedom of research within the broad aims of the Centre, and the goals of the Discovery Project. It comes with appropriate research support for fieldwork and may offer some opportunities for exposure to teaching.

The Centre of Excellence has an ambitious series of interlinked projects, focusing on language as a dynamic and variable system, and drawing on the full diversity of the world's languages, through four programs focusing on the design space of language (Shape), how it is learned (Learning) and processed (Processing), and how linguistic structures evolve at various timescales (Evolution). Two 'threads' (Archiving, and Research technologies) enable the technological advances needed to drive forward the language sciences in the coming decades. The position will engage closely with both the Centre and the Research Unit for Indigenous Language within the School of Languages and Linguistics. For more information please see: <http://indiglang.arts.unimelb.edu.au>.

1. Key Responsibilities

- ▶ Undertake research within the overall project, with a particular focus child language acquisition of an Australian language;
- ▶ Publish original research, jointly or individually as appropriately, across a range of publication outlets;
- ▶ Contribute to supervision of honours, Master's and PhD students as appropriate;
- ▶ Contribute to research workshops relating to the project and have an active involvement in the organisation of activities as appropriate;
- ▶ Undertake limited teaching – approximately 10% of time, with details subject to negotiation;
- ▶ Participate in the cyclical performance management planning and review process and meeting agreed operational objectives set for the performance period;
- ▶ Meetings and committee work within the School;
- ▶ Other duties as required by the project supervisor or the Head of School;
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in Section 5.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ A completed PhD or equivalent experience in Linguistics or a related discipline;

- ▶ Demonstrated expertise in child language development and language learning with a reasonable degree of competence in either Pitjantjatjara or Murrinhpatha;
- ▶ Demonstrated fieldwork experience and ability to work on an under-described language involving fieldwork in remote locations;
- ▶ Capacity to undertake complex tasks independently, and ability to work as part of a team, with collaborators from a variety of cultural and intellectual backgrounds;
- ▶ Demonstrated capacity and willingness to develop and engage in original and independent research and scholarship as well as a high-level portfolio of professional publications, relative to career stage;
- ▶ Excellent interpersonal skills and a demonstrated capacity to deal efficiently with academic and administrative tasks relevant to the position;
- ▶ A demonstrated high level understanding of equal opportunity principles and a commitment to the application in a university context is essential.

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ An established relationship with at least one of the two indigenous communities (Pitjantjatjara or Murrinhpatha);
- ▶ Technological expertise with relevant software e.g. ELAN and/or CLAN/CHILDES.

3. *Special Requirements*

- ▶ Submission of a concise, clear and innovative research plan (c. 2 pages) focusing on a particular aspect or aspects of child language development in one or both of the two communities.
 - ▶ The proposal should show a strong background in functionally oriented linguistics, linguistic anthropology, or developmental psycholinguistics that has included research on the acquisition of one or more languages;
 - ▶ Preference will be given to proposals which include longitudinal sampling and naturalistic observation in their methodology, and which focus on an under-described Indigenous language of Australia (including creoles);
 - ▶ Proposals will be ranked both for their overall quality in relation to the above specifications and for their feasibility within the given time frame.

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 strive 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/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel>

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

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

6.2 BUDGET DIVISION

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

The Faculty of Arts is at the forefront of teaching and research in the languages, humanities and social sciences fields in Australia and in many cases internationally. Founded in 1853, it is one of Australia's oldest and largest faculties with approximately 400 staff and 7000 students - 6000 undergraduates and 1000 postgraduates – engaged in over 900 subjects in more than 40 areas of study. Over 600 international students from more than 50 different countries representing five continents are currently studying towards degrees offered in the Faculty.

As Australia's premier Arts faculty, it aims to provide an exciting, high-quality intellectual environment that will attract the best students and staff across a wide range of disciplines.

The Faculty of Arts maintains strong connections with leading international universities through research collaborations and student exchange programs, and nurtures relationships with government, not-for-profit 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 academic schools:

- ▶ Asia Institute
- ▶ School of Culture and Communication

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

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

- ▶ The Office of the Dean and Faculty Executive Director
- ▶ The Academic Support Office
- ▶ The Strategy, Planning and Resources Unit
- ▶ The External Relations Unit
- ▶ The Research Office
- ▶ The Human Resources Office

For more information on the Faculty please see www.arts.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>.