



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Connected Cities Lab

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Research Fellow in International Urban Development

POSITION NO	0049669
CLASSIFICATION	Research Fellow, Level A
SALARY	\$72,083 – 97,812 p.a. (pro rata for part-time) (*Level A PhD entry level \$91,125 p.a.)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	Part-time (0.5 FTE) *Applicants interested in full-time work will be considered.
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed-term position available until 22 December 2020* *Applicants interested in full-time work will be considered. Please note that this arrangement would reduce the length of the appointment
OTHER BENEFITS	https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers Please upload: 1) a short CV, 2) a 1-page expression of interest detailing your suitability for the position and for the Connected Cities Lab, and 3) a relevant writing sample.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Professor Michele Acuto, Lab Director Email: connected-cities@unimelb.edu.au

Please do not send your application to this contact

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:
about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Position Summary

The Connected Cities Lab is looking for a Research Fellow to work on an emerging and exciting collaboration between the Lab and Fondation Botnar supporting the development of an effective “evidence to action” framework to build a better future for children in cities. The Fellow will collaborate with Lab team members and Fondation Botnar to deliver the design of a major international program centred on this theme and scope challenges/opportunities to better mobilize evidence to shape action in ‘secondary cities’ internationally when it comes to issues of child and adolescent wellbeing in urban environments. This will involve scoping and developing framework for the delivery of the “evidence to action” program, supporting the Lab team in engaging international experts and institutions (e.g. UN agencies), as well as management activities (including meeting, engagement and project administration support), some data gathering and analysis activities and some reviewing of current Lab evidence, communication activities including drafting of practitioner-friendly documents, analysing information and formatting/summarising it, as well as engaging where appropriate with the Botnar team and other international experts on questions of (international) urban development. The Fellow will also have a chance to participate in the broader research and engagement activities of the Lab and, where appropriate, take part in academic publications and events.

1. Key Responsibilities

1.1 SPECIFIC TO EVIDENCE TO ACTION PROGRAM

- ▶ Provide research, intellectual input and manage co-production of knowledge about the effective approaches to mobilising evidence into action in global south and secondary cities - especially as it pertains to questions of urban wellbeing.
- ▶ Assist in the everyday management of the project under the guidance of Ms Joyati Das, Dr Stephanie Butcher and Prof Michele Acuto in the Connected Cities Lab. This includes activities monitoring and reporting, developing progress and final reports and dealing with logistic issues, in support for the development of the Evidence to Action program.
- ▶ In collaboration with the project’s team in the Lab and in partnership with the Fondation Botnar team in Basel, as well in co-production with local partners, develop a proposed framework for the delivery of the Evidence to Action, including implementing principles for action derived from current Lab research findings.
- ▶ Collaborate with Lab staff in the development of relevant public- or academic-facing outputs (e.g. a peer reviewable paper or conference report) as per deemed valuable by Lab and Fondation Botnar in the context of the project

1.2 GENERAL TO THE LAB AND ABP

- ▶ Collaborate with other Lab team members in the development, writing and dissemination of scholarly and practitioner publications in the area of international urban development.

- ▶ Assist in the development of Lab events such as academic visitors, symposia, reading groups, PhD supervision and support, research seminars and conferences.
- ▶ Contribute to the development and management of the Lab.
- ▶ Contribute openly to intellectual debate within the Faculty and the larger academic and general community on issues of urban governance, politics and policy.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined below.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ A master's degree in urban studies, planning, geography, politics or (urban) health, or at least 2 years of professional engagement, or equivalent experience (e.g. research or implementation consultancy), related to urban development in developing country contexts.
- ▶ Research capacity commensurate with opportunity, as demonstrated by a record of publications and participation in research projects.
- ▶ A broad understanding of key theoretical frameworks relevant to the study of urban governance, especially as they pertain to its international dimensions and/or questions of evidence use in cities.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to plan, facilitate and document multi-stakeholder workshops as part of research or capacity building engagements.
- ▶ Excellent English language written and verbal communication skills including the ability to draft communications and reports, and to convey complex information in a manner that is clear, concise and accessible to a broad audience.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to build effective working relationships with co-researchers and partner organisations, and engage built environment practitioners
- ▶ High-level interpersonal and communication skills, including demonstrated capacity to work with participants from varied ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team to prioritise workload, meet agreed deadlines and achieve project goals.

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Clear evidence of substantial advancement (e.g. ABD candidates, submission deadline set, candidates awaiting final examination etc.) towards the completion of a PhD degree in one of the following fields: politics and international relations, urban design, architecture, urban planning, urban health, geography or urban studies.
- ▶ Specialisation in fields of urbanisation, urban development and/or urban health.
- ▶ Academic, or equivalent professional, experience of working with international institutions and networks involved in the urban development sector, such as transnational civil society, academic partnerships, the United Nations, or international development organisations.
- ▶ Experience of urban governance in cities of the Global South.
- ▶ Experience with policy outreach, capacity building and innovative practitioner (local government, built environment professionals) engagements.

- ▶ Understanding of research funding systems and research governance obligations with the capacity to engage with funding agencies.
- ▶ Fluency in a second language other than English, written and verbal communication skills including the ability to draft communications and reports, and to convey complex information in a manner that is clear, concise and accessible to a broad audience.

3. Special Requirements

- ▶ This position requires may require the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.
- ▶ Occasional work out of ordinary hours, travel, etc.

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:

<https://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/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 THE CONNECTED CITIES LAB

The way we govern cities, and in turn the way cities contribute to addressing global challenges, is key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of humanity. Yet cities are now confronted with a rapidly changing landscape of international politics, interconnected infrastructures, and shifting economies. Cities can no longer be thought in isolation from each other, and the business of deciding who gets what, when and how in urban development has become a global affair. Focusing on these networked challenges for city leadership, the Connected Cities Lab is an experimental hub tackling the complexity underpinning urban governance with a focus on information and connectivity. Located within the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, and the Melbourne School of Design, the Lab aims at research that is inherently impact-driven, interdisciplinary and collaborative to address pressing city leadership challenges in and between cities.

The Lab is characterised by a focus on urban governance and policy. Lab research and education programmes engage with the ways decisions about the present and future development of cities are shaped by information flows and more-than-local networks. It is supported by an interdisciplinary team of researchers and practitioners, and well-established links into industry and government. The Lab's research programme is geared towards developing a scholarly and international appreciation of urban politics in both academia and practice. The Lab does so by encouraging evidence-based policy making and focusing on comparative and applied urban research, working with international partners key in shaping the global discussion on cities to ensure scholarly advancement translates into urban innovation, and vice-versa.

6.2 PROJECT PARTNER: FONDATION BOTNAR

Fondation Botnar is a Swiss-based foundation which champions the use of AI and digital technology to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in growing urban environments. To achieve this, we support research, catalyse diverse partners, and invest in emerging technologies and scalable solutions globally. The Foundation focuses explicitly on 'secondary cities', having started its work with an emphasis on Romania, Tanzania, Colombia, India but aiming at extending this effort internationally. This project builds on an existing collaboration for a scoping review of the "evidence to action" theme carried out by the Lab for Fondation Botnar in 2019.

More information about Fondation Botnar is available at: <https://www.fondationbotnar.org>

6.3 THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING AND PLANNING (ABP)

The Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning is the leading educational and research institution in the Asia-Pacific region addressing the design and realisation of inhabited environments. The Faculty actively seeks to extend the linkages between education, research and practice in the built environment, and maintains excellent and extensive relationships with members of the built environment professions, government, professional associations and the wider community.

The Faculty has nearly 200 staff and approximately 3000 students, one third of whom are international. It is responsible for the University's undergraduate Bachelor of Design

degree, and offers majors in architecture, landscape architecture, property, construction, and urban planning.

The Faculty's graduate school, the Melbourne School of Design teaches accredited masters courses across the professional disciplines of Architecture, Construction Management, Landscape Architecture, Property, Urban Design and Urban Planning.

The MSD is distinctive from its competitors in its aim to inspire learning through interdisciplinary reflection, and its integration of research, teaching, and practice around the implications of all forms of urbanisation. With opportunities to engage in advanced studio and seminar-based learning and research, MSD students develop new perspectives, critical reflection, and modes of action to address the environmental, social and aesthetic challenges in producing sustainable centres of habitation, locally and internationally. Students take part in field trips which examine the global context of habitable environments.

The Faculty has an international reputation for excellence in research and research training and is a leader in built environment and urban research. Faculty staff are actively engaged in collaborations and partnerships both locally and globally, to produce research that responds to major social, economic and environmental challenges, as well as fundamental research into the built environment in Australia and the Asian region. Researchers address key issues, such as mitigation of natural disasters, climate change, sustainability, the future of cities, population growth and urban density; leading debate in many of these areas. The Faculty also contributes definitive knowledge and understanding of the history, conservation and heritage of the built and natural environment, built environment practice and management, urban morphology and design research. The Faculty draws its research strength in part from its capacity to work in the multidisciplinary frame of its various built environment disciplines, as well as with colleagues in health, engineering, education, history and social sciences.

Through the MSD, we provide the highest quality research training environment, attracting the best and brightest future researchers from around the world. PhD and MPhil students have access to innovative professional development programs and generous funding support, along with excellent facilities and resources. MSD's PhD and MPhil graduates are well-rounded professionals, critical thinkers and future research leaders.

The Faculty has built strong research foundations by valuing and developing its people, rewarding excellence, and fostering a culture of enquiry, creativity and outstanding scholarship.

More information about ABP / MSD can be found at: <http://msd.unimelb.edu.au>

6.4 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>

6.5 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. <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy>

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.

<https://research.unimelb.edu.au/research-at-melbourne/our-strategy>

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.

6.6 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 <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance>