

Position Description

Postdoctoral Researcher – Freshwater Turtle Conservation

Position No:	50148738
Business Unit:	School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment
Division:	Centre for Freshwater Ecosystems
Department:	Environment and Genetics
Classification Level:	Level A – Research Officer
Employment Type:	Full-Time/Fixed Term (18 months)
Campus Location:	Albury-Wodonga
Other Benefits:	http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits

Further information about:

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

Level A– Research Officer – Freshwater Turtle Conservation

Position Context/Purpose

We are seeking an experienced vertebrate or freshwater ecologist to join a dynamic and high performing research team focusing on freshwater turtle conservation in a fixed-term 18 month research fellowship. The position is based within the Centre for Freshwater Ecosystems (CFE) at La Trobe University's Albury-Wodonga (AW) campus. CFE is one of 13 Research Centres within the School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment (SABE) and a major focus of research at the AW campus. The position is supported by an ARC Linkage Grant, which includes collaborators at Western Sydney University, the University of New England, and the University of Sydney. The project is also supported by partners throughout south-eastern Australia, including Greening Australia, North East Water, Tiverton Agricultural Impact Fund, Winton Wetlands, and Wodonga Council.

The successful applicant will drive and develop field research projects aimed at monitoring turtle populations and testing methods to protect freshwater turtle nests at sites managed by the project partners, four of which are within 1 h drive of Wodonga. They will also have the opportunity to collaborate on, and co-supervise students on, projects aimed at understanding the fundamental biology and ecology of juvenile and adult freshwater turtles in a range of habitats.

The successful applicant will have a PhD in vertebrate and/or freshwater ecology or conservation, as well as the ability to run collaborative field research projects, collect, analyse, and interpret quantitative ecological datasets, and prepare results for dissemination in peer-reviewed publications.

The successful applicant will have the capacity to take initiative and achieve outcomes as part of a team, and should be comfortable problem-solving in field settings. Extended periods of fieldwork may be required between October and April, especially around turtle nesting and hatching seasons.

Duties at this level will include:

- Play a significant role in research projects including planning and conducting field research trips with small teams of students.
- Communicate research aims and achievements clearly and regularly with industry funding partners.
- Collaborate with academic and community stakeholders to achieve research aims.
- Maintain and analyse complex datasets.
- Supervise Higher Degree by Research (HDR), honours and postgraduate students and research projects.
- Make a significant contribution to the discipline at the national level through publication in international journals, presentations at scientific meetings and presentations to industry and community groups.
- Undertake other duties and administrative functions commensurate with the classification and scope of the position as required by the project chief investigators.

Essential Criteria

Skills and knowledge required for the position

- Completion of a PhD or equivalent accreditation in vertebrate or freshwater ecology or conservation.
- Strong record of publications in high quality peer-reviewed journals, conference presentations, and/or government reports in the relevant discipline area.
- High level analytical capability with an ability to communicate complex information clearly both orally and in writing.

- Demonstrated experience in longterm field ecology or conservation research, preferably in freshwater systems.
- Demonstrated experience with capture-mark-recapture, animal telemetry, or similar field ecological approaches.
- Demonstrated ability to build relationships with non-academic and industry partners locally and/or nationally.
- Experience in the use of R Statistical Computing Environment (other languages advantageous).
- Experience with administrative requirements of vertebrate research, including writing animal ethics protocols and scientific licence applications.
- Ability to supervise postgraduate students and volunteers

Capabilities required to be successful in the position

- Ability to safely work long hours under difficult field conditions during turtle nesting and hatching seasons.
- Ability to safely work in and around water and aquatic habitats.
- Ability to work collaboratively, demonstrate inclusivity and tailor communication in a way that is meaningful to the audience – consistently modelling accountability, connectedness, innovation and care.
- Demonstrated creative and critical thinking, ability to generate ideas to solve local problems and recommend improvements to current work practices.
- Ability to make sense of data to inform decision making – implementing ideas to improve local practices.
- Ability to align personal and University goals and create a safe, inclusive, high-performing culture – modelling and enabling accountability, connectedness, innovation and care.

Essential Compliance Requirements

To hold this La Trobe University position the occupant must:

- Hold, or be willing to undertake and pass, a Victorian Working With Children Check; AND
- Driver's license
- 4x4 driving experience
- Strong ability to swim
- Boat license desirable
- Take personal accountability to comply with all University policies, procedures and legislative or regulatory obligations; including but not limited to TEQSA and the Higher Education Threshold Standards.

Other Information

The position description is indicative of the initial expectation of the role and subject to changes to University goals and priorities, activities or focus of the job.

Position Flexibility

La Trobe University is committed to providing a diverse, inclusive and respectful working environment for all staff. We offer flexible work arrangements that can assist you in balancing your work and other responsibilities.

Why La Trobe:

- Develop your career at an innovative, global university where you'll collaborate with community and industry to create impact.
- Enjoy working on our inspiring and stunning campuses – the perfect hub for industry, students and academics
- Help transform the lives of students, partners and communities now and in the future

This is more than just a job. Working at La Trobe offers opportunities to demonstrate excellence and transform lives.

Here, you'll join exceptional people, partners and communities, who power our operations with ambition and purpose.

We are forward-looking and culturally inclusive. We continuously review, improve and transform our processes to embrace new, flexible approaches. That means you'll always have the opportunity to succeed and make a difference.

La Trobe's Cultural Qualities:



We are accountable

*We strive for excellence in everything we do.
We hold each other and ourselves to
account, and work to the highest standard.*



We are connected

*We connect to the world outside – the
students and communities we serve, both
locally and globally*



We are innovative

*We tackle the big issues of our time to
transform the lives of our students and
society.*



We care

*We care about what we do and why we do it.
We believe in the power of education and
research to transform lives and global
society. We care about being the difference
in the lives of our students and communities*

For Human Resource Use Only

Initials: Date: