



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### Connected Cities Lab

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

## Research Fellow in Sustainable Urban Development

<b>POSITION NO</b>	0049668
<b>EMPLOYMENT TYPE</b>	Research Fellow, Level A
<b>SALARY</b>	Level A \$72,083 – 97,812 p.a. (pro rata for part-time) (*Level A PhD entry level \$91,125 p.a.)
<b>SUPERANNUATION</b>	Employer contribution of 9.5%
<b>WORKING HOURS</b>	Part-time (0.5 FTE)  *Applicants interested in full-time work will be considered.
<b>BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>	Fixed-term position available until 1 June 2020*  *Applicants interested in full-time work will be considered. Please note that this arrangement would reduce the length of the appointment
<b>OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits</a>
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	Go to <a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers</a>  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.
<b>CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY</b>	Professor Michele Acuto, Lab Director Email: <a href="mailto:connected-cities@unimelb.edu.au">connected-cities@unimelb.edu.au</a>  <i>Please do not send your application to these contacts.</i>

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

## ***Position Summary***

The Connected Cities Lab is looking for a Research Fellow in Urban Policy to contribute to a collaboration between the Lab and UN-Habitat, the United Nations' human settlements agency, and University College London, investigating the challenges of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in cities. The researcher will collaborate with Lab team members, as well as UN-Habitat and UCL, to develop a review of the data capacity of cities and 'urban observatories' as to selected SDGs targets. This will involve data gathering, reviewing Lab evidence, analysing and summarising it, formatting and engaging where appropriate with the UN-Habitat and UCL team.

### ***1. Selection Criteria***

Please provide a brief statement outlining your suitability for the position.

#### **1.1 ESSENTIAL**

- ▶ A master's degree in a relevant field (e.g. urban studies/planning, geography, politics), 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.
- ▶ Experience in writing reports and/or other forms of accessible research materials.
- ▶ A broad understanding of key challenges for urban sustainability and/or development.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ High-level project management interpersonal and communication skills, including demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively in a team, and work independently, to prioritise workload.

#### **1.2 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, geography or urban studies.
- ▶ Experience with engaging with issues that pertain to the Sustainable Development Goals
- ▶ Ability and proficiency to use graphic design and presentation software to create and refine research findings visualizations.
- ▶ Some experience of working with local government and/or international organisations.
- ▶ Ability to use a range of analytical quantitative and qualitative software programs.

- ▶ Understanding of research funding systems and research governance obligations with the capacity to engage with funding agencies.
- ▶ Working proficiency in a language other than English

Candidate reference checks are a standard part of the appointment process, including internal to the University if applicable.

## ***2. Special Requirements***

- ▶ This position may require the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.
- ▶ May be required to work outside of normal work hours in support of project team meetings with UN-Habitat/UCL and events that disseminate and promote the project's findings.

## ***3. Key Responsibilities***

### **3.1 DATA GATHERING AND ANALYSIS**

- ▶ Gather primary and secondary data related to SDGs targets in a selected sample of cities, including developing and circulating survey materials and where appropriate conducting interviews.
- ▶ Develop a literature analysis on the implementation and role of SDGs in cities, in support of several projects currently ongoing in the Lab
- ▶ Review, summarise and format primary and secondary data from other related Lab projects.
- ▶ Take part in regular project meetings
- ▶ Produce high quality written material arising from the research project, in collaboration with the project Leads Prof Michele Acuto and Dr Cathy Oke, and project partners (UN-Habitat, University College London) with a focus on accessible and practitioner-friendly analysis of use to both cities, UN officers and international experts in the field.

### **3.2 ENGAGEMENT**

- ▶ Assist in the engagement with project partners (e.g. UN-Habitat, UCL, Banksia Foundation) and other relevant international stakeholders.
- ▶ Assist in the dissemination of research findings to academic and wider audiences through project-specific activities that might include research reports, professional publications, websites, public broadcasting, social media and active networking.
- ▶ Contribute openly to intellectual debate within the Lab and the Faculty and the larger academic and general community on issues of the value of small architectural firms.
- ▶ Engage in regular Lab meetings and other all-staff activities held by the Connected Cities Lab during the duration of the post.

### **3.3 GENERAL FACULTY AND LABORATORY DUTIES**

- ▶ 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.

#### ***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 BUDGET DIVISION

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. It 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 over 200 staff and 4000 students, one third of whom are international. It is responsible for the 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 environmental 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 can 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. Our researchers address key issues, such as mitigation of natural disasters, climate change, sustainability, the future of cities, population growth and urban density. We lead debate in many of these areas. We also contribute 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 in our disciplines 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. Our PhD and MPhil graduates are well-rounded professionals, critical thinkers and future research leaders.

We have built strong research foundations by valuing and developing our 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/>

### 6.3 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. <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.

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