



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Assistant

POSITION NO	0050887
CLASSIFICATION	Research Assistant Grade 2 (Level A)
SALARY	\$73,669 - \$99,964 p.a.
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed term until 31 December 2021 Fixed term contract type: Externally funded employment
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
HOW TO APPLY	N/A
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Professor Stephen Kent Tel +61 3 8344 9939 Email skent@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 websites:

about.unimelb.edu.au/careers
joining.unimelb.edu.au

Position Summary

The Doherty Institute at the University of Melbourne seeks a Research Assistant to work with Dr Jennifer Juno and Dr Hyon Xhi Tan in the Kent Laboratory. We are interested in understanding the nature of T cell recognition of SARS-CoV-2 proteins in humans, and whether such responses can be harnessed for improved protective vaccines.

With support and guidance from senior academic staff, the Research Assistant will apply a number of different experimental procedures to map protective T cell epitopes in human clinical samples, and test novel SARS-CoV-2 vaccine concepts in small animal immunisation models. Key specialised techniques include flow cytometry, in vitro cellular assays, protein expression, TCR sequencing and mouse models of infection and immunisation. Additionally, the Research Assistant will contribute to the preparation and maintenance of laboratory stocks of reagents (e.g. purified antibodies and recombinant proteins).

Furthermore, the Research Assistant will be asked to test new approaches, design experiments, address technical problems, consult scientific literature, maintain well-documented lab records, present data at lab meetings and contribute to the preparation of research manuscripts. The candidate will also contribute, as a team member, to general lab maintenance, including wash-up, maintaining catalogues and stocks or communal reagents.

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic with a strong interest in immunology and infectious diseases. They must have exceptional organisational skills, possess the ability to work within a team atmosphere and be a self-starter.

We foster a values-based culture of innovation and creativity to enhance the research performance of the University and to achieve excellence in teaching and research outcomes.

We invest in developing the careers and wellbeing of our students and staff and expect all our leaders to live our values of:

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Compassion
- Respect
- Integrity
- [Accountability](#)

1. Key Responsibilities

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ Independently, or under limited supervision, plan and carry out experiments focused on completion of research project aims
- ▶ Carry out experiments related to the project ethically, accurately and productively
- ▶ Maintain accurate and detailed records of all experiments conducted
- ▶ Assist other researchers in carrying out experiments in order to work as a team and further the laboratory's research output
- ▶ Perform other duties as requested by the appointee's immediate supervisors consistent with the classification of this position
- ▶ Contribution towards publications arising from scholarships and research, such as publication of books and in peer-reviewed journals

1.2 TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ▶ Contribute to supervision and training of students in the laboratory setting

1.3 ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Attend and contribute to lab meetings
- ▶ Evaluate and report results to the Principal Investigators and collaborators

1.4 SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Assist with administrative duties such as maintaining laboratory databases, records of training, SOPs and inventories
- ▶ Take a leading role in the maintenance of PBMC stocks by isolating and storing PBMCs from human clinical samples and accurately maintaining records.
- ▶ Share the duties for maintaining lab wash-up and cleanliness in a roster system
- ▶ Contribute to the day to day organisation of the laboratory including ordering reagents, maintenance of equipment, maintain stocks of reagents
- ▶ Undertake other duties as requested by the supervisor and the Head of the Department
- ▶ Undertake Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in Section 4 and take responsibility for routine reviews of laboratory practices

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ BSc (Honours) degree or equivalent with a major in Immunology, Microbiology or a related discipline
- ▶ Ability to work with senior researchers and help design, perform and analyse experiments in a timely manner
- ▶ Strong organisation skills and accurate recording and analysis of data generated from research undertaken
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a research team and interact in a courteous and effective manner with academic, administrative and support staff
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to undertake administrative duties relating to the management of both the research laboratory and department
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to learn the required technical skills/aseptic techniques
- ▶ Willingness to perform experimentation on mice
- ▶ Ability to adhere to the principles of good laboratory practices
- ▶ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ▶ Experience in cell culture

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Sound knowledge of biosafety issues in handling infectious agents

- ▶ Demonstrated computer skills, including use of spreadsheets, database programs and word processing
- ▶ Experience in protein expression and purification techniques
- ▶ Experience with mouse handling and experimentation

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 strive 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 DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

The Department of Microbiology & Immunology is one of the departments within the School of Biomedical Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Further information is available at <http://www.microbiol.unimelb.edu.au/> and <http://bsac.unimelb.edu.au/>.

5.2 THE PETER DOHERTY INSTITUTE FOR INFECTION AND IMMUNITY

The Doherty Institute is a world-class institute combining research in infectious disease and immunity with teaching excellence, reference laboratory diagnostic services, epidemiology and clinical services. It is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Health.

A new, purpose-built building for the Doherty Institute was completed in early 2014. The members of the Doherty include the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory of the University of Melbourne, the Victorian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System, The Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, The Victorian Infectious Diseases Service, and The World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza.

Further information about the Doherty Institute is available at:
<http://www.doherty.unimelb.edu.au>

5.3 SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

www.biomedicalsciences.unimelb.edu.au

The School of Biomedical Sciences is part of the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences. It was established on 1 January 2015 and comprises the Departments of Anatomy and Neuroscience, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Physiology.

Situated on the University's Parkville Campus in a rich medical practice and research precinct the School has much to offer research and teaching staff alike.

5.4 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) plays a vital role in the delivery of the University of Melbourne's Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Growing Esteem by providing current and future generations with education and research equal to the best in the world. It is Australia's largest and leading biomedical research faculty. It employs more than 1,700 members of staff, has more than 8,000 students, and total revenue of \$607 million for 2015. Reflecting the complexity of today's global health landscape, the Faculty is made up of six different Schools and four Strategic Research Initiatives, and draws together all areas of human health, ranging from the most basic to the most applied areas of research. The Faculty contributes close to 50 per cent of research conducted at the University.

The Faculty has appointed Australia's first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University-wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty's RAP will address Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

5.5 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>.

5.6 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.

5.7 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>