



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Microbiological Diagnostic Unit (Public Health Laboratory)

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

Technical Assistant – MDU (PHL)

POSITION NO	0052850
CLASSIFICATION	UOM 4
SALARY	\$69,365-\$73,618 p.a.
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed term to 03/06/2022 Fixed term contract type: Externally funded contract employment
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
HOW TO APPLY	N/A
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Susan Ballard Tel +61 3 8344 8246 Email susan.ballard@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 Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL) provides a comprehensive microbiological investigation and advisory service for the public health community. This is supported by strong molecular biology, a substantial bacterial culture collection, and, expertise in infectious disease epidemiology and infection control. We are committed to providing an efficient, effective, legally robust and timely public health laboratory service in the biological, medical and veterinary fields, including forensic operations. These activities incorporate the principles of ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189, and ISO 14001 in a Quarantine Approved Premises fulfilling the requirements of The National Health Security Act.

Technical Assistants are responsible for assisting with the timely examination of samples within the varying sections in the MDU. This includes responsibility for the isolation and identification of pathogenic organisms from a range of samples not limited to food, water, environmental and clinical specimens. Technical assistants are required to work weekends on a rostered basis following suitable training.

MDU's scope is broad and there is ample opportunity to develop specialist skills including those which relate to investigation of microorganisms important in infections which are community acquired, hospital acquired, or, food or waterborne. Many aspects of these organisms are relevant to the work of MDU, including detection, identification, presence and characterisation of antimicrobial resistance, virulence factors, detailed characterisation and typing.

The School of Biomedical Sciences and its Departments 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 to live by our Faculty Values of:

- Collaboration
- Compassion
- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability

1. Key Responsibilities

- ▶ The incumbent will be required to work across a range of sections inclusive of the Enteric Pathogens section, Reference, Unusual Pathogens and Resistance (RUPR) section and the Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic (MSHC), but may be directed to other sections of

MDU depending on experience and the needs of each section at the direction of the Principal Scientist.

- ▶ Perform and prioritise routine microbiological testing of samples as requested for the detection and isolation of microorganisms and for application of subsequent microscopy, biochemical, serological and molecular tests for confirmation of identification or strain typing in a timely manner and in accordance with MDU procedures.
- ▶ Perform tasks as listed in the general laboratory duty roster, including preparation of reagents, equipment calibration and maintaining the laboratory through good housekeeping.
- ▶ Participate in training and competency assessment for the routine confirmation and identification and subtype of bacteria within the section.
- ▶ Participate in the weekend roster.
- ▶ Undertake responsibility for selected MDU PHL wide activities inclusive of specialist projects and surveillance activities as required by the Director/Deputy Director, Principal Scientist or Section Head.
- ▶ 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

- ▶ An undergraduate qualification in Microbiology or Medical Laboratory Technology.
- ▶ Experience in or demonstrated understanding in the performance of clinical microbiological testing including, but not limited to, Gram stain, culture and nucleic acid amplification testing.
- ▶ Capability to record scientific data and results in both conventional hardcopy and electronic forms.
- ▶ Professional, timely and accurate completion of sample testing with an attention to detail and the utilisation of effective organisational skills
- ▶ Ability to adapt to periodic pressures of the workplace, where large numbers of analyses need to be performed rapidly with a high degree of analytical precision.
- ▶ Demonstrate a flexible attitude to work, as tasks vary.

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Previous experience in diagnostic clinical microbiology or diagnostic molecular biology.
- ▶ Experience in automated sample testing platforms.
- ▶ Relevant knowledge of microbiological standards including NATA, DA (Quarantine Accredited Premises), DoH.

2.3 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Commitment to observe, sign and abide by MDU's confidentiality and information use agreement.
- ▶ An understanding of the need to commit to a workplace culture that is cognisant of the on-going requirements of third party audits.

- ▶ Requirement to participate in employment rosters that include shifts on weekends and gazetted university and public holiday periods.
- ▶ The ordinary hours of work for a Full-Time PASO Employee may be programmed between 7:30 am and 7:30 pm, Monday to Friday.
- ▶ Undergo police and security checks as a condition of employment with the University of Melbourne.
- ▶ Vaccination against relevant infectious diseases is recommended and provided.

3. Job Complexity, Skills, Knowledge

3.1 LEVEL OF SUPERVISION / INDEPENDENCE

The position will report to the Section Leader of Enterics, RUPR or MSHC depending on roster and placement with oversight by the Principal Scientist. The incumbent is responsible for the effective execution of analytical procedures and the accurate recording of results and control data that provide documentary evidence of the completion of a valid test procedure. They will have responsibility for maintaining appropriate standards of implementation of test methodology and data recording in a hands-on role. Within these guidelines, the incumbent will have general independence in the judicious application of best practices of analysis of each specimen in day to day decision making and will work together with laboratory technical staff to achieve all required tasks.

3.2 PROBLEM SOLVING AND JUDGEMENT

The position will be required to apply the correct standard operating procedure (SOP) to the specimen and will be expected to refer to relevant SOP's to determine guiding principles, as required, to resolve any uncertainty that circumstances may present. In the event that existing SOP's do not provide sufficient guidance to the circumstance in question the incumbent will seek further professional guidance from supervising staff. In these circumstances, problems relating to test integrity and safety matters should be discussed immediately with the Section Head. The incumbent will be required to take corrective action, where possible, in the event of equipment malfunction and advise senior staff accordingly.

3.3 PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The position requires a qualification in Microbiology and will further develop from both specific workplace training and a practical experience in performing analyses. Central to this knowledge acquisition will be a parallel understanding of good laboratory practice, linking theoretical knowledge with practical capability. The incumbent is expected to understand and adhere to MDU PHL Standard Operating Procedures and perform in a professional environment that is subject to independent audit practices. Active membership in a relevant professional organisation is desirable.

3.4 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The position will assist with the daily processing of submitted specimens and associated documentation and provide status reports on the progress of analyses to the Section

Leader. The incumbent will ensure that there is stock rotation of consumables (test reagents) and those materials that are out of the specified use-by date or those that are in low supply are brought to the attention of senior staff.

3.5 BREADTH OF THE POSITION

The position covers the Enterics/RUPR/MSHC Sections but is not limited to this and can include laboratory wide activities of the MDU PHL. More specifically this involves the performance of analyses, participation in proficiency evaluations, acquisition of competence in new procedures and maintaining quality systems and documentation that will meet third party audit requirements of various regulatory agencies as required.

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 service 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/topics/responsibilities/>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

6. Other Information

6.1 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/>.

6.2 THE MICROBIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSTIC UNIT PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit (MDU PHL) is a public health laboratory for the Department of Health, Victoria situated within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Melbourne. The MDU has been established for over 100 years on External State Government funding.

The MDU PHL is concerned with provision of services for the laboratory diagnosis of diseases of public health importance, the application of typing methods, use of computer-based data collection systems for epidemiological purposes, and provision of expert opinion. In addition, the Unit undertakes the microbiological examination of foods and water for compliance with regulatory and voluntary codes and standards. MDU PHL is NATA accredited for Biological testing, including Forensic Operations, NATA/RCPA accredited for Medical testing and performs selected Veterinary testing.

6.3 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>

6.4 SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

<https://biomedicalsciences.unimelb.edu.au/>

The School of Biomedical Sciences is one of the most prominent and diverse Schools in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences and is comprised of three Departments - Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology, and Microbiology and Immunology.

The School is situated on the University's Parkville Campus and is part of the largest biomedical precinct in the southern hemisphere, providing access to world class research facilities for staff and students.

The School fosters a values-based culture of innovation and creativity to achieve research and teaching excellence.

6.5 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences has an enviable research record and is the University of Melbourne's largest faculty in terms of management of financial resources, employment of academic and professional staff, teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate (including research higher degree) students and the conduct of basic and applied research. The Faculty's annual revenue is \$628m with approximately 55% of this income related to research activities.

The Faculty has a student teaching load in excess of 8,500 equivalent full-time students including more than 1,300 research higher degree students. The Faculty has approximately 2,195 staff comprising 642 professional staff and 1,553 research and teaching staff.

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.

6.6 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>.

6.7 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.

6.8 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>