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| **Position Description** |

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| **Electron microscopist** |
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| **Position No:** | NEW |
| **Department:** | Biochemistry and Genetics |
| **School:** | School of Molecular Sciences |
| **Campus/Location:** | Melbourne (Bundoora) |
| **Classification:** | Higher Education Officer Level 8 (HEO8) |
| **Employment Type:** | Full-time, Fixed term |
| **Position Supervisor:** **Number:** | Professor50131604 |
| **Other Benefits:** | <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits>  |

Further information about:

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

Bioimaging Platform – <http://latrobe.edu.au/bioimaging>

**For enquiries only contact:**

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| **Position Description** |

**Electron microscopist**

**Position Context**

To support researchers and enhance their capacity to produce high quality research, La Trobe has established a number of Research Platforms. The Bioimaging Platform supports a wide range of research projects by providing researchers with expert advice and access to cutting-edge equipment and technologies in optical and electron microscopy, flow cytometry and image analysis.

A full-time position for an electron microscopist is now available for an initial term of three years to support electron microscopy services and capabilities within the Bioimaging Platform. The platform supports researchers across a range of disciplines, particularly the life and molecular sciences. The appointee, reporting to Professor Patrick Humbert, will be based in the La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science at the Melbourne (Bundoora) campus, a state-of-the-art facility designed for multi-disciplinary research and translatable research outcomes.

The key function of this role is to provide high level expert training (for staff and students) and technical support on sample preparation techniques and electron microscopy, for research groups across the University in a variety of disciplines to enable and accelerate their research programs. The appointee will be responsible for managing the electron microscopy capability and be proficient working with material from a range of species from viruses, bacteria, fungi, plants and animals. It is also expected that the appointee will lead the development of new sample preparation methods and imaging techniques and drive their adoption amongst the wider community. Although this is primarily a service role, the appointee will have time to collaborate on research projects, contribute to publications and preparation of grant proposals for new equipment.

**Duties at this level may include:**

* Providing academic and industry researchers/users with expert advice and technical support across a range of disciplines and identifying innovative solutions.
* Training users in the safe and effective operation of both scanning and transmission electron microscopes and associated sample preparation equipment.
* Providing technical support and training for a range of sample preparation techniques including cryo-TEM, specimen fixation, embedding, ultrathin sectioning, staining, immuno-gold labelling.
* Maintenance of the electron microscopes and associated equipment through a current understanding of the theory and knowledge of its operation and by liaising with service engineers.
* Developing new or improved sample preparation methods and imaging techniques.
* Overseeing multiple projects, including quoting on time and cost, and ensuring that each project is managed and delivered to specification, time and budget.
* Providing high quality scientific reports, including image analysis and data visualisations, which will contribute to research outcomes including publications and grant applications.
* Developing an internal and external network of relationships with colleagues, stakeholders, researchers, industry partners and working collaboratively with staff at other facilities.
* Building capacity in the platform through engagement with the research community, including providing specialized training courses and establishing a community of practice, user group and seminar program.
* Providing expert professional or consultancy advice to achieve intellectual standing outside the University through, for example, presentations at events and meetings.
* Reporting on metrics associated with the Bioimaging Platform, including usage, engagement and research outcomes, and writing the annual report.
* Supporting the day-to-day operations of the platform and other duties, including developing standard operating procedures, complying with OH&S requirements, maintaining the platform’s website and implementing ISO accreditation for the platform.
* Building capability in the platform by advising on future needs and operational matters and applying for internal and external funding for new equipment.
* Other duties as required.

**Key Selection Criteria:**

* A PhD degree in the life sciences, or an equivalent combination of relevant knowledge and experience.
* Extensive expertise in and experience operating and maintaining scanning and transmission electron microscopes and associated sample preparation equipment.
* Demonstrated experience in a range of sample preparation techniques, including preparation of vitreous material and cryosectioning for cryo-EM, fixation, embedding and ultrathin sectioning of various samples, particularly those of plant and animal origin.
* Experience in training a range of users, such as students and staff, in electron microscopy, sample preparation techniques and equipment.
* Demonstrated leadership skills to promote a cohesive and effective team, build relationships with researchers, students and external clients, and effectively manage resourcing.
* Well-developed communication skills, with an emphasis on the ability to evaluate, analyse and communicate information clearly.

**Desirable Attributes**

* Experience and expertise in optical microscopy, including confocal and associated image analysis techniques.
* Publication record in the fields of molecular and life sciences and record of successful competitive grant or fellowship funding
* Experience working in an ISO9001 accredited facility and detailed knowledge of the accreditation framework.

**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
* 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.

**La Trobe Cultural Qualities**

Our cultural qualities underpin everything we do. As we work towards realising the strategic goals of the University we strive to work in a way which is aligned to our four cultural qualities:

* 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 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* ***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: