



POSITION DESCRIPTION

School of BioSciences
Faculty of Science

Research Associate in Biology of Stem Cells, Gametes, Embryology and/or Reproduction

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| POSITION NO | 0056442 |
| CLASSIFICATION | Level A or Level B |
| SALARY | <p>\$77,171 – \$104,717 (Level A – PhD entry level – A.6 \$97,558)</p> <p>\$110,236 - \$130,900 (Level B)</p> <p>Level of appointment is subject to the appointee's research record, qualifications and experience</p> |
| SUPERANNUATION | Employer contribution of 17% |
| WORKING HOURS | Full-time (1.0 FTE) |
| BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT | Fixed-term to 31 December 2023 |
| OTHER BENEFITS | http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits |
| HOW TO APPLY | <p>Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, select the relevant option ('Current Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number.</p> |
| CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY | <p>Prof Andrew Pask Email: a.pask@unimelb.edu.au</p> <p>Dr Stephen Frankenberg Email: srfr@unimelb.edu.au</p> <p><i>Please do not send your application to these contacts</i></p> |

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

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia. The University recognises the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original custodians of country and their continued connection to the land, waterways, songlines and culture. The University respects all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and warmly embrace those students, staff, Elders and collaborators who identify as First Nations.

Position Summary

The Pask/Frankenberg Lab works broadly on technologies for the derivation and manipulation of pluripotent stem cells (PSCs), CRISPR editing PSCs, and using PSCs to generate animals. While most of our funding is for a long-term objective of de-extincting the Tasmanian tiger (thylacine; (<https://tigrrlab.science.unimelb.edu.au/>)), our short-term objectives are focussed on marsupial conservation, such as generating live animals from biobanked cells and engineering marsupial genomes. Other complementary projects are aimed at engineering genetic biocontrols for the eradication of invasive mammal pest populations, such as foxes and rabbits (<https://piperlab.science.unimelb.edu.au/>).

Research Associate positions are available for individuals with skills in one or more of the following areas: vertebrate reproductive biology; derivation and culture of pluripotent stem cells; assisted reproductive technologies including manipulation of gametes (oocyte in vitro maturation, in vitro fertilisation, spermatogonia); embryology (micromanipulation including embryo transfers, embryo culture & imaging); gene editing (CRISPR); functional gene analyses in knock-in and knock-out models. Successful applicants will help lead and conduct any of multiple interdisciplinary and interconnected projects in the Pask/Frankenberg laboratory.

These positions are based at the Parkville Campus and will report to the two Lab Heads, Prof Andrew Pask and Dr Stephen Frankenberg. The work will involve working in collaborative teams on specific tasks associated with the above projects, including experimental design, standard molecular biology & culture procedures, regular project reporting, data analyses and preparation of manuscripts for publication.

1. Key Responsibilities

The position description should be read alongside Academic Career Benchmarks and Indicators.

A level A academic is acquiring skills and building academic achievements (oriented towards the benchmarks).

A Level B academic has well developed academic skills and strong academic performance (approaching or progressing towards the benchmarks).

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ Effective knowledge of at least one of the following: pluripotent stem cell culture and manipulation; in-vitro maturation of oocytes; embryo culture, micromanipulation and imaging
- ▶ Prepare scientific data for analysis
- ▶ Communicate results at meetings

- ▶ Develop and prepare animal ethics applications
- ▶ Contribute to writing guides and reports
- ▶ Assist with the training of students and technical staff

1.2 TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ▶ Contribute to teaching, training, scientific mentoring and supervision of students
- ▶ Contribute to effective supervision of junior research staff in the appointee's area of expertise with the goal of production of publications

1.3 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- ▶ Actively participate at School meetings and contribute to planning activities or committee work to support capacity building in the School/discipline
- ▶ Contribute to, or present research to the public to elevate public awareness of educational and scientific developments, and promote critical enquiry and public debate within the community where appropriate
- ▶ Effective demonstration and promotion of University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity

1.4 OTHER DUTIES

- ▶ Perform other tasks as requested by the supervisor or the Head of School
- ▶ Actively participate in the University Professional Development Framework
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4

2. *Selection Criteria*

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Completion of a PhD in zoology, genetics or a related discipline
- ▶ Demonstrated experience in mammalian reproductive biology or genetics
- ▶ A demonstrated aptitude for independent research, with a sound publication record in relevant areas, commensurate with experience and opportunities
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to prepare research reports and manuscripts for publication
- ▶ Strong evidence of ability and desire to build an academic research career trajectory
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to engage with relevant professional and industry bodies and stakeholders to foster collaborative partnerships.
- ▶ Excellent interpersonal and both written and oral communication skills in English.
- ▶ Excellent ability to work co-operatively and positively in a multi-disciplinary research based team environment and liaise with people from diverse backgrounds
- ▶ Demonstrated excellent organisational skills to meet deadlines and bring projects to a timely completion

- ▶ Demonstrated ability to develop, administer and see through to completion appropriately designed research projects with limited supervision

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work as a productive member of a research team
- ▶ Strong communication skills,
- ▶ Strong computer skills / R / python
- ▶ Individual leadership qualities to guide others towards achievement of their goals,
- ▶ Innovative approach that will generate and/or recognise imaginative and creative ideas and solutions.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to attract funding

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 Advancing Melbourne strategy 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 strive to service for excellence and reach the targets of Advancing Melbourne.

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 SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES

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

The School of BioSciences was formed in 2015 through the amalgamation of the School of Botany and the Departments of Genetics and Zoology, thus bringing together a critical mass of 160 Academic staff and 240 Research Higher Degree students undertaking world class teaching and research in the biological sciences. Academics within the School are aligned to four research clusters: Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Science; Genetics, Genomics and Development; Plant Science and Computational Biology. Through cross-disciplinary collaborations within the School and with external partners, the School is a major recipient of grant and contract funding.

The School is a major contributor to the Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science and the Environmental Science programs, its teaching program reflecting the research interests within the School.

5.2 FACULTY OF SCIENCE

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

Science at the University of Melbourne is among the most highly ranked Faculties of Science in Australia*. Science is defined by its research excellence in the physical and life sciences and is at the forefront of research addressing major societal issues from climate change to disease. Our discoveries help build an understanding of the world around us.

We have over 150 years of experience in pioneering scientific thinking and analysis, leading to outstanding teaching and learning and offer a curriculum based on highly relevant research, which empowers our STEM students and graduates to understand and address complexities that impact real world issues and the challenges of tomorrow.

We aspire to engage the broader community with the impact that Science has on our everyday lives. Through the strength of our internships and research project offerings, our students are provided opportunities to engage with industry partners to solve real-world issues.

The Faculty of Science has over 53,000 alumni and is one of the largest faculties in the University comprising seven schools: BioSciences, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, Geography, Mathematics and Statistics, and Physics.

The Faculty is custodian of the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, Office for Environmental Programs, Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) and home to numerous Centres.

Science manages more than \$315 million of income per annum, with a staff base in the order of 290 professional staff, and more than 630 academic staff.

We offer a range of undergraduate, honours, graduate and research degrees; enrolling over 9,700 undergraduate and 2,400 graduate students. The Faculty of Science is the custodial Faculty for the BSc (Bachelor of Science). The Faculty of Science is a leader in research, contributing approximately \$80 million in HERDC income per annum.

The Faculty of Science is highly research focused, performing strongly in the ARC competitive grants schemes, often out-performing the national average. The Faculty of Science is currently growing its competitiveness and standing in the NHMRC space.

* Based on 2018-19 subject rankings by QS and Time Higher Education

5.3 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>.

5.4 ADVANCING MELBOURNE

The University's strategic direction is grounded in its purpose. While its expression may change, our purpose is enduring: to benefit society through the transformative impact of education and research. Together, the vision and purpose inform the focus and scale of our aspirations for the coming decade.

Advancing Melbourne reflects the University's commitment to its people, its place, and its partners. Our aspiration for 2030 is to be known as a world-leading and globally connected Australian university, with our students at the heart of everything we do.

We will offer students a distinctive and outstanding education and experience, preparing them for success as leaders, change agents and global citizens.

We will be recognised locally and globally for our leadership on matters of national and global importance, through outstanding research and scholarship and a commitment to collaboration.

We will be empowered by our sense of place and connections with communities. We will take opportunities to advance both the University and the City of Melbourne in close collaboration and synergy.

We will deliver this through building a brilliant, diverse and vibrant University community, with strong connections to those we serve.

The means for achieving these goals include the development of the University of Melbourne's academic and professional staff and the capabilities needed to support a modern, world-class university. Those means require a commitment to ongoing financial sustainability and an ambitious infrastructure program which will reshape the campus and our contribution to the communities we engage with. This strategy, and the priorities proposed, is centred around five intersecting themes; place, community, education, discovery and global.

5.5 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 <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance>