DIRECTOR, MONASH DATA FUTURES INSTITUTE

DEPARTMENT/UNIT	Monash Data Futures institute
FACULTY/DIVISION	Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President
CLASSIFICATION	Level E
WORK LOCATION	Clayton campus

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

There's a certain feeling you get from working at Monash University. It's the feeling that you're a part of something special. Something significant. So if you're looking for the next chapter in your career, it's here. You'll be given the opportunity to challenge yourself, build on your skills, and make a significant contribution to a workplace that's filled with energetic and inspiring people. Talent thrives here - and so do truly satisfying careers. Discover more at http://www.monash.edu.

The **Provost & Senior Vice-President** is the Chief Academic Officer of the University and is responsible for: the University's academic strategy and priorities with a view to improving the education and research performance of the University; oversight of faculties, academic related portfolios and university-wide centres and institutes; oversight of academic staffing including recruitment, development, reward and recognition, policies and procedures; strategic leadership for the delivery of academic programs; identification and cultivation of interdisciplinary areas of excellence and collaboration.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science

Basic, fundamental, high-quality investigator led research is the backbone of Monash. We are absolutely committed to supporting our researchers to be the very best. The greatest challenges of our age are both social and environmental, and our multidisciplinary approach puts us in a unique position to find and help implement solutions.

We have identified four focus areas where our expertise and continued investment will have the most significant impacts. These four areas span our established strengths as well as emerging areas of excellence, and provide themes for collaboration where we can have impact on the societal and planetary challenges of our time.

Artificial Intelligence powered by data science is changing the nature of work and human interaction – it is vast in its nature and application. As we enter a critical phase in its advancement, the potential for economic and societal impact through AI and data science creates an imperative for responsible and immediate action.

Monash is investing in AI and data science by bringing together multidisciplinary teams to develop and understand future technologies and consider the impact of innovation in this area. We will partner with industry to develop and understand future technologies, apply and consider the impact of such applications.

Monash Data Futures

Monash Data Futures is a University-wide institute bringing together multi-disciplinary capability across data science and artificial intelligence (AI). It aims to be the leading centre for AI and Data Science in the region, taking a fundamentally interdisciplinary approach. Monash Data Futures will be the largest such institute in Australia.

The Institute has the following primary aims:

1. to nurture and co-ordinate capability relevant to AI & Data Science across the University and beyond;
2. to increase Monash's research profile in interdisciplinary AI and Data Science nationally and internationally, both within academia and industry;
3. to coordinate bids for large research grants, leveraging the research profile & capability of the entire University; and
4. to demonstrate the critical and transformative nature of AI and data science and facilitate its adoption by our industry partners.

The Institute will bring together researchers from each of the Monash faculties to undertake interdisciplinary research and build strong partnerships externally and internationally. It will focus on three key themes:

1. AI and Data Science in Health Sciences;
2. AI and Data Science in Sustainable Development; and
3. AI and Data Science in Better Governance and Policy.

This flagship institute will enable the development of innovative educational offerings, increased research income, collaborative research projects and industry engagement. The Institute will also focus on developing new methods to analyse and process the enormous amounts of data generated by the University, providing a competitive edge in our research capability as well as building commercial value.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Director, Monash Data Futures institute, is responsible for overall leadership and continuing development of the Institute. The Director will be expected to work closely with the Steering Group, Advisory Board and the Senior Management team at Monash University to build and develop the virtual institute that will involve scholars from each faculty. The Institute Director will work closely with a team of core staff to deliver all aspects of strategy, management and financial viability. The Director will increase the visibility and reputation of Monash research, enterprise and education in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

The Director will be a leading researcher in a relevant field, creating strong, outcome-focused partnerships with faculties and strategically positioning Monash for global leadership, translation and education. The Director will lead the Institute to grow and strengthen its interdisciplinary research activities, attracting competitive national and international funding and building significant industry partnerships.

The Director will align Monash Data Futures' research to needs identified across government, industry, academia and civil society. This includes the promotion of Monash's capability to play a significant role in national and international research, translation and education in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

The Director will actively pursue new partnerships and global networks of excellence through which Monash Data Futures and Monash can mobilise specialists from diverse scholastic fields, organisations, sectors and places to generate newly funded and globally significant research in the area of Artificial Intelligence and Data Science.

Reporting Line: Provost and Senior Vice-President of the University, working closely with the Monash Data Futures Steering Committee and Advisory Board

Supervisory Responsibilities: The position provides oversight to approximately 10 staff

Financial Delegation: Yes, in accordance with the University Delegations Schedule

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Strategic leadership of the Institute's development and implementation of AI and Data Science research, translation, engagement and education in collaboration with faculties at Monash

2. Building of an effective team in Monash Data Futures that has a strong sense of common purpose in support of the Monash Data Futures vision

3. Taking a lead role in international and national collaborations and networks, and maintaining public leadership through writing, speaking and presenting to position Monash and Monash Data Futures for global leadership in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

4. Leadership in engaging with government, business and community sectors to build mutual capacity, to identify high quality projects of relevance and to capture external resources for research, translation and education initiatives - sources may include national and international funding agencies, governments, business and philanthropy

5. Engagement with strategic partners and stakeholders to promote outcomes and maximise the impact and influence of the research, translation and education activities of the Monash Data Futures institute

6. Leadership of strategic and operational planning to successfully deliver the Institute's mission, financial sustainability and reporting on performance and outcomes to key stakeholders and the University more broadly

7. Working with faculties to recruit and build a virtual institute through a community of scholars at Monash with expertise to engage in interdisciplinary research and translation of national and international significance and enhance the participation of Monash in national and international networks and consortia

8. Attract, develop and retain the best staff and support them to achieve both the Institute's mission and their personal career objectives

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications and Experience

1. An exceptionally skilled and experienced individual with an international reputation and a distinguished record for influencing the AI and data science agenda

2. Significant strategic leadership experience including fostering a successful institutional culture within a complex knowledge and impact-focused organisation

3. Extensive management experience in senior roles, including governance, staff engagement, strategic planning, management of complex and novel projects

4. A doctoral qualification in a field relevant to the Monash Data Futures Institute or equivalent accreditation and standing, together with subsequent research experience and recognised as a leading authority in the area of research and/or scholarship

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

5. International reputation and track record for leading major impact and influence initiatives at scale, whether in interdisciplinary research, translation, education or innovation

6. A robust understanding of industry trends and cutting edge research across AI and Data Science

7. An extensive record of building and managing relationships with industry, government and community partners, potential investors, and stakeholders in order to achieve the goals of the Institute and enhance its reputation as a preferred partner

8. Excellent communication skills including the ability to represent Monash and Data Futures externally with proven experience in influencing and persuading decision makers

9. A record of obtaining significant external funding for large programs

Behavioural Competencies

10. An energetic and visionary leader with the capacity to inspire passionate staff to keep aiming high, embrace new ways of working, and respect a diversity of people and perspectives

11. Highly collegial and collaborative approach with an empathetic, agile and open mind

12. A visible and active leader of the Institute with the personal presence and intellectual capacity, stamina and agility to deal with a broad span of duties, to gain the respect of a wide range of stakeholders and balance internal and external demands

13. Alignment with the University's values and guiding principles, as well as a high level of emotional intelligence and resilience

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- The appointee will be required to undertake national and international travel
- There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted
- There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time
- The incumbent will be required to hold a current valid National Police Check

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Ensure you are aware of and adhere to legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including: Equal Employment Opportunity, supporting equity and fairness; Occupational Health and Safety, supporting a safe workplace; Conflict of Interest (including Conflict of Interest in Research); Paid Outside Work; Privacy; Research Conduct; and Staff/Student Relationships.