POSITION DESCRIPTION

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Faculty of Education

Postdoctoral Researcher: ARC Linkage Project Longitudinal student well-being and learning engagement.

POSITION NO	3557170
CLASSIFICATION	Level A
SALARY	Level A: $87,266 - $118,416 p.a. (pro rata for part-time) (*PhD entry level $110,319 p.a.)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 17%
WORKING HOURS	0.8 FTE
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed term for 3 years from 1 February 2027 to 31 January 2030 Work focus category: Research only
OTHER BENEFITS	https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then find the position by title or number. **Please send letter and CV addressing the position description and selection criteria by November 16th, 2026.**
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Professor Kate Reynolds Faculty of Education reynolds.k@unimelb.edu.au *Please get in touch to discuss your application if needed.*

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 the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

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 of Melbourne 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

The Faculty of Education

The Faculty of Education (FoE) fosters staff productivity, growth and engagement in a collective effort to enrich the contribution that education makes to society. We conduct research and teaching that leads to the transformation of education practice both within and beyond the profession. FoE stimulates learning that enriches the potential of students from around the world, enabling meaningful careers and profound contributions to communities. We provide research leadership, setting the direction for high-impact, innovative and responsive research that addresses the pressing issues of our time. We lead purposeful engagement with society, sharing our resources and expertise as part of collaborative efforts to build a resilient, equitable and sustainable future

Strategy 2030: Resilience

As set out in the University of Melbourne's Strategy 2030, our purpose is to benefit society through the transformative impact of our education and research. This can only be achieved by building a resilient institution, empowering our people, and working toward shared ambitions.

Our aspiration for 2030 is to be a world-leading, globally connected Australia university with students at the heart of everything we do. Strategy 2030 provides a sharp focus to advance our shared ambitions and guide us through to 2030.

It elevates three core ambitions:

• Exceptional Education: Educating our outstanding students to thrive in complexity

• Transformational Research: Creating knowledge, fostering innovation and transforming lives

• Our Resilient University: Serving and connecting Country, people and community

The strategy identifies our University's distinctive capabilities including Indigenous scholarship, world-class curriculum, our diverse community and our global research networks and precincts.

Four focus areas for action guide decision-making and ensure the University is equipped for challenges ahead. These are: Empowering people and performance, Improving student experience, Partnering for impact and Leading with a future-focus.

For more information, visit https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/strategy-2030

Background

This position will help advance a program of research focused on an ARC Linkage funded project Student wellbeing: Identifying key supports and high-impact school practices. The project aims to create a large-scale longitudinal databank and datalab to identify when specific predictors matter most and when for student wellbeing and learning during their schooling years It includes Dr Georgia Dawson, Professor Jon Quach, Professor Sharon Goldfeld, Dr Meredith O' Connor, (MCRI), Dr Sarah Gray (MCRI) & Dr Dan Steinberg (CSIRO) and policy experts from Victorian Department of Education.This innovative project transforms educational research from small-scale, cross-sectional studies to sector-wide, longitudinal analyses using advanced new analytic methods (Machine learning, Person-centred). Working in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education, MCRI and CSIRO, it will advance insight into student wellbeing, engagement and learning outcomes across primary and secondary schooling and better understand early and proximal predictors with a focus on change over time. Through connections with schools, research findings will be utilised to prioritise high impact strategies at critical developmental stages.

Position Summary

Based in the Faculty of Education, the Research Fellow will report to Academic Lead, Prof. Reynolds. The work will involve carrying out the project work plans and consulting with the Academic Lead, CIs, and Senior Project Managers in the Victorian Department of Education on decision points. The Research Fellow will lead the implementation of research activities, updating the Academic Lead and Research Team of workplan and output progression. The ideal candidate will possess excellent writing and organisational skills, experience in both empirical and theoretical research, and the ability to work both independently to complete activities and as part of a research team.

Specifically, the Research Fellow will provide project management and research support, with a particular focus on logistics and agendas, coordinating research assistants and PhD students, analysing data, and taking a lead in developing publication and presentation drafts. The role has a strong focus on creating research outputs, including academic publications.

This is a three-year Fellowship, awarded to a candidate with an excellent record and evidence of outstanding potential as an academic researcher and leader.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

RESEARCH

- Contribute to the planning, implementation and delivery of research, including work planning, data collection and analysis, stakeholder engagement, project outputs and timeline coordination
- Apply longitudinal and person-centred techniques and other statistical innovations to big data
- Contribute to the development of high-quality grant applications, academic publications and other research outputs, including both taking a lead on and providing feedback on draft publications and other materials
- Contribute to the intellectual community within the Faculty of Education and its School of Learning Sciences
- Contribute to other research and project-related duties as assigned

LEADERSHIP AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- Drive the day-to-day delivery of research activities to ensure alignment with project objectives, timelines and quality standards, in conjunction with the Academic Lead and Chief/Partner Investigators
- Collaborate and support the research team in the design, implementation and continuous improvement of research activities, identifying risks, monitoring progress and recommending refinements where appropriate
- Support project governance through regular progress reporting, work plan monitoring and effective data and records management
- Provide guidance and feedback to Research Assistants and Graduate Students in collaboration with the Academic Lead and Chief Investigators as applicable

- Represent the program and research team professionally in engagements with research collaborators, university partners and external stakeholders
- Undertake goal setting and self-assessment with the Academic Lead
- Contribute to funding proposal development on related topics as appropriate

Engagement

- Mobilise findings via scholarly publications and other project outputs as agreed with the team
- Advance effective relationships, including with research target audiences to establish networks for data collection and research impact
- Contribute to research seminars and relationships within the Faculty of Education and beyond
- Undertake ongoing professional development to maintain knowledge of current research, resources and practice in relevant fields (e.g., attending project-related conferences)
- Present research findings at national and international academic conferences as required

Selection Criteria Essential

- A PhD degree in a relevant social science field (e.g., psychology, social psychology, education, mental health) completed within the past 5 years
- A strong record of scholarly publishing relative to years in academia
- Demonstrated expertise in the application of quantitative research, especially in longitudinal methods and research with young people
- Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills, including demonstrated capacity working in teams
- Excellent organisational and project management skills
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team to meet deadlines and achieve project goals

Preferred

- Theoretical expertise in social psychology and social identity and/or young people's mental health is also an asset
- Methodological experience with large-scale quantitative research with young people and/or policy makers, participatory engagement of policy makers and young people, and use of creative and interactive data platforms and tools for research impact
- Track record in preparing grant applications

Other Requirements

- Unrestricted right to work in Australia
- Some out of hours work will be required
- Some national or international travel may be required
- This position is based at the Parkville site and requires being based in Melbourne
- Any offer of employment may be conditional upon receipt and maintenance of a valid Working with Children Check

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 our Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2030 that addresses 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 our strategic targets.

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:

https://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel

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

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 https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance.

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