Position Description

Research Officer

Position No:	NEW
Business Unit:	Provost
Division:	La Trobe Business School
Department:	Financial Economics and Institutional Systems
Classification Level:	Level A Research Only
Employment Type:	Fixed term, Part Time
Campus Location:	Melbourne (Bundoora)
Other Benefits:	http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits

Further information about:

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

Position Context/Purpose

This position contributes to the Australian Research Council Linkage Project, "An Evidence-Based Strategy to Advance Modular Hempcrete Panels in Australia". The Researcher will work with La Trobe University Chief Investigators and the three project partners (the Australian Hemp Council, the Warner Research Institute and Southern Hemp) to assess the potential of modular hempcrete panels as an affordable, low-carbon construction solution and their contribution to regional development.

The Researcher will contribute to an interdisciplinary program of research spanning supply-chain analysis, life-cycle and carbon assessment, economic viability, regional development and policy. The role will bring together quantitative and qualitative evidence to examine the opportunities, constraints, investment needs and regulatory considerations involved in developing the Australian hempcrete panel industry.

The research will inform a practical, industry-facing blueprint that sets out priorities and actions for the next five to seven years. The Researcher will help translate findings into recommendations and communicate them to industry, local councils, and State and Federal governments to support decisions about industry development, emissions reduction, regional opportunities, standards and certification, and pathways for building-code recognition.

Duties at this level will include:

- Conduct and publish, or otherwise disseminate high quality and/or high impact research/scholarly activities under limited supervision either independently or as part of a team.
- Assist in obtaining research funding from external sources.
- Participate in professional activities including presentations at conferences and seminars in field of expertise.
- Attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the unit to which the research is connected and/or at Departmental or School meetings and/or membership of a limited number of committees.
- Acquire and interpret research data and results. Run analyses and tests using specified and agreed techniques and models. Contribute to the development of techniques, models and methods.
- Undertake other duties and administrative functions commensurate with the classification and scope of the position as required by the Head of Department or Dean.

Specific duties and accountabilities

- Undertake research on the economic, environmental and regional development potential of modular hempcrete panels, and contribute to the industry blueprint.
- Map hemp supply chains, collect and analyse relevant quantitative and qualitative data.
- Contribute to life-cycle assessment, carbon-impact analysis and other environmental assessments of modular hempcrete panels.
- Contribute to cost, economic, business-case, investment and scenario models to assess project viability and regional development potential.
- Compare the costs of modular hempcrete construction with alternative materials and methods that meet equivalent building-code requirements and could be adopted within five to seven years.
- Conduct interviews and consultations with hemp producers, processors, manufacturers, builders, investors, councils and government agencies, and synthesise findings.
- Analyse relevant policy, regulatory, standards and certification frameworks, and contribute to a scalable industry blueprint and regionally adaptable implementation framework.

- Contribute to the preparation of research reports, policy briefs, academic publications, presentations and stakeholder materials; support project coordination, partner engagement and translation of findings into practical recommendations.

Essential Criteria

Skills and knowledge required for the position

- Completion of a relevant Master's degree or PhD, or be close to submission, in a field such as environmental science, agricultural or resource economics, regional development, ecology, public policy, supply-chain management or a related discipline.
- Evidence of experience in research and evaluation and the ability to work effectively under limited supervision or independently.
- A record of contribution to publications, conference papers and/or reports, or professional or technical contributions which provide evidence of research potential.
- Experience in the analysis and modelling of data, including the capacity to integrate data from a range of sources and of uneven quality.
- Effective oral and written communication skills, including the ability to interact effectively with people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team in a cooperative and collegial manner.

Specific skills and knowledge

- Practical research or professional capability in at least two of the following areas: life-cycle assessment, carbon accounting, environmental modelling, economic analysis, cost–benefit analysis, supply-chain analysis, regional development or sustainability policy.
- Ability to apply relevant research methods to real-world questions and translate evidence into practical recommendations.
- Experience collecting, managing and analysing quantitative and/or qualitative data.
- Ability to engage effectively with industry, government and community stakeholders, including through interviews, consultations or similar activities.
- Knowledge of, or ability to work across, sustainable construction, bio-based materials, circular economy, regional development, or relevant policy and regulatory settings.
- Ability to contribute to research outputs for academic, policy, industry and other non-academic audiences.

Capabilities required to be successful in the position

- Ability to demonstrate self-awareness, see things from another person's perspective and actively seek out and act on feedback to improve knowledge, skills and behaviour.
- Ability to work collaboratively, recognise the value of diversity and model accountability, connectedness, innovation and care.
- Ability to think creatively, explore new ideas and respectfully challenge existing practices in order to improve current ways of working.
- Ability to implement improvements to local processes.

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.

Other Information

The position description is indicative of the initial expectation of the role and subject to changes to University goals and priorities, activities or focus of the job.

Position Flexibility

We offer flexible work arrangements that can assist you in balancing your work and other responsibilities.

Why La Trobe:

- Develop your career at an innovative, global university where you'll collaborate with community and industry to create impact.
- Enjoy working on our inspiring and stunning campuses – the perfect hub for industry, students and academics
- Help transform the lives of students, partners and communities now and in the future
- La Trobe University adopts an AI-first approach and welcomes staff who embrace AI curiosity to drive innovation in their work

This is more than just a job. Working at La Trobe offers opportunities to demonstrate excellence and transform lives.

Here, you'll join exceptional people, partners and communities, who power our operations with ambition and purpose.

Our success can be attributed to its strong sense of community. We have a long-standing commitment to diversity, inclusion and social justice; we are committed to providing a workplace where all staff feel valued, respected and supported to achieve their full potential. We strive to build a workplace where all employees of diverse backgrounds, abilities, experiences, sexuality, gender, religion and age are welcome, valued, respected and one that is representative of our community. We demonstrate our cultural qualities by holding ourselves accountable and creating a culture of trust and innovation while genuinely caring for one another.

La Trobe's Cultural Qualities:



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Initials: Date: