



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

**School of BioSciences**  
Faculty of Science

### *Research Fellow in Astrobotany*

<b>POSITION NO</b>	0063363
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	Level A
<b>SALARY</b>	Level A: \$83,468 - \$113,262 p.a. (pro rata for part-time) (*PhD entry level \$105,518 p.a.) Level B: \$119,231 - \$141,581 p.a. (pro-rata for part-time)
<b>SUPERANNUATION</b>	Employer contribution of 17%
<b>WORKING HOURS</b>	Full-Time (Part-Time option (from 0.5 FTE) can be considered for this role)
<b>BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT</b>	Fixed-Term for 36 months (3 years) <b>FLEXIBLE EMPLOYMENT</b> The University of Melbourne is strongly committed to supporting diversity and flexibility in the workplace. Applications for part-time or other flexible working arrangements will be welcomed and will be fully considered subject to meeting the inherent requirements of the position.
<b>OTHER BENEFITS</b>	<a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits</a>
<b>HOW TO APPLY</b>	Online applications are preferred. Go to <a href="http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers">http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers</a> , select the relevant option ('Current Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number.
<b>CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY</b>	Michelle Watt Tel +61 (0)400521989 Email <a href="mailto:watt.m@unimelb.edu.au">watt.m@unimelb.edu.au</a> <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:  
[about.unimelb.edu.au/careers](http://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 successful Research Fellow in Astrobotany will design, breed, transform, and phenotype plant systems for space habitation. They will join ongoing research to re-domesticate fruiting plants (initially strawberry) to optimise harvest index in soil-less systems for space habitation. Selection and crossing of natural on Earth populations will be combined with genetic modification to develop complete-use plants. Experience with pre-breeding, plant growth analysis, molecular biology including gene construct design and testing, plant phenotyping and trait evaluation are relevant to this position. The successful applicant will report to Prof. Michelle Watt, Adrienne Clarke Chair of Botany at the University of Melbourne, and be a part of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence in Plants for Space (P4S).

The ARC Centre of Excellence in P4S is a >\$90 million initiative led by the University of Adelaide and with more than 35 partners across Australia and around the world, including NASA. The Centre involves five Australian Universities: University of Adelaide, Flinders University, University of Western Australia, La Trobe University and the University of Melbourne. P4S aims to create on-demand, zero-waste, high-efficiency plants and plant products for food and beverages to address grand challenges in sustainability for Space and on Earth. The multi-disciplinary team in plant, food, and sensory science; process and systems engineering; law and policy; and psychology will deliver transformative solutions for Space habitation – and create enhanced plant-derived food and bioresources to capitalise upon emergent and rapidly expanding domestic and global markets. Anticipated outcomes include industry uptake of innovative plant forms, foods, technologies, and commodities; and an ambitious education and international co-ordination agenda to position Australia as a global leader in plant-based research supporting Space habitation. Find out more at [www.plants4space.com](http://www.plants4space.com). Being a cross-nodal initiative, collaboration across the other P4S sites within the University of Melbourne, interstate and internationally, is imperative.

The successful candidate will be appointed at the appropriate level (A/B) based upon the Selection Panel's assessment of the individual's application.

We encourage applicants from under-represented groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To allow us to consider performance relative to opportunity, we also invite applicants to provide a brief statement (up to 1 page) that describes circumstances that may have affected their career development or progression, including career interruptions or delays, periods of part time work, or forms of bias they have experienced.

## 1. Key Responsibilities

As with all positions, career achievements will be interpreted relative to opportunity, including career disruptions due to caring responsibilities, time in industry, illness etc.

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

The appointee will be expected to:

- ▶ You are expected to significantly contribute towards the research effort of the team and P4S and to develop your research expertise with an increasing degree of autonomy.
- ▶ Under the guidance (Level A) and in collaboration (Level B) of Senior Academic staff conduct internationally competitive research, resulting in publications in high impact journals.
- ▶ Contribute to and publish academic papers and other scholarly outputs to a high academic standard in accordance with the research expectations of the University of Melbourne and the ARC P4S.
- ▶ Actively participate in research seminars and conferences to disseminate research findings as opportunities arise.
- ▶ Contribute to the preparation, or where appropriate individual preparation of research proposal submissions to internal or external funding bodies as relevant.
- ▶ Undertake administrative functions and obligations primarily connected with the staff member's area of research.
- ▶ Contribute to and assist in the co-supervision and training of research students primarily at undergraduate level.
- ▶ Engage with relevant professional and industry bodies and stakeholders to foster collaborative partnerships.

### 1.2 TEACHING AND LEARNING

The appointee will be expected to:

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

### 1.3 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

The appointee will be expected to:

- ▶ Actively participate at School meetings and P4S and with guidance, contribute to planning activities or committee work to support capacity building in the School/discipline and P4S.

- ▶ Actively participate in activities within the School and Faculty and P4S to support Diversity and Inclusion.
- ▶ 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 and according to the aims of P4S.
- ▶ Effective demonstration and promotion of University and P4S values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity.
- ▶ Actively contribute to School and P4S activities such as Open day to promote student engagement.

#### 1.4 OTHER DUTIES

The appointee will be expected to:

- ▶ Perform other tasks as requested by the supervisor or P4S Executive or the Head of School.
- ▶ Actively participate in the University Professional Development Framework.
- ▶ Ensure an up-to-date record of University and P4S compliance courses, such as, but not limited to, Appropriate Workplace Behaviour, PDF for Staff and Supervisors, OH & S training courses.
- ▶ 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 Plant Sciences or a related discipline
- ▶ **Demonstrated experience in growing plants for growth analysis and in molecular biology.**
- ▶ **Knowledge or experience in pre-breeding or breeding plants.**
- ▶ A demonstrated aptitude for 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

- ▶ Experience with plant root biology and phenotyping.
- ▶ Experience with designing and making gene constructs.
- ▶ Experience with microscopy.
- ▶ The ability to attract external funding through grant applications and/or support in funded joint projects with others internal or external to the university.
- ▶ Experience in assisting with supervision of students undertaking undergraduate or higher degree research projects.

### 2.3 OTHER JOB-RELATED INFORMATION

- ▶ This position requires the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.
- ▶ Occasional work out of ordinary hours, travel, etc.

## 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 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 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 ORGANISATION UNIT – SCHOOL OF BIOSCIENCES

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

This position presents an opportunity to join The University of Melbourne's School of BioSciences. BioSciences houses 60 continuing academic staff, and more than 150 academic staff overall (including postdocs, and other research contingent staff) all working on the world's top biological challenges – from climate change, biosecurity and pollution to reproductive health and food production. Collectively members of our School lead more than 240 research projects in the general areas of ecology, evolution, zoology, marine biology, genetics, plant science, genomics, biosecurity, biological pollution, reproductive biology and data science.

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 2 research domains - Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Molecular and Systems 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

<http://www.science.unimelb.edu.au>

Science at Melbourne is a global leader across fundamental and impactful scientific research and education. Science begins with curiosity, and we are dedicated to understanding the universe from the level of sub-atomic particles to the solar system. We aim to be leaders who positively impact the community locally and globally, addressing major societal issues from climate change to disease. Our discoveries help build an understanding of the world around us.

Our strength is our breadth of expertise. We are the second largest faculty in the University comprising seven schools: Agriculture, Food & Ecosystem Sciences, BioSciences, Chemistry, Geography, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics, Physics and Veterinary Science.

This depth of knowledge positions the faculty to better understand, explore and impact our world and humanity, within a truly comprehensive Faculty of Science.

We have more than 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. We aim to train students with the knowledge and intellectual flexibility to drive the industries of tomorrow and lead across all levels of society.

We offer a range of undergraduate, honours, graduate and research degrees, enrolling more than 11,500 undergraduate and 3,750 graduate students.

We are dedicated to delivering leading transformative educational outcomes, underpinned by research, and an inclusive and inspiring student experience.

Excellence comes in many forms and diversity of thought, perspective and disciplines is essential to deliver globally leading science. At the core of our success is our focus on an inclusive environment for all in our community. Our Faculty's focus on equity, inclusion and belonging is grounded in our endeavour to ensure we are best placed to advance research, teaching and serve diverse national and global communities.

As a Science community we sit across five of the University's campuses – Parkville, Dookie, Burnley, Creswick and Werribee. This reach provides us with a unique perspective that is beneficial to our teaching and research. It also means we can offer our students a greater variety of learning experiences and internships to engage with industry partners to solve real-world issues.

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

### 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>