

POSITION DESCRIPTION

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Faculty of Arts

Monash Arts is one of 10 Faculties at Monash University. The Faculty of Arts at Monash University is one of the largest, most diverse and dynamic arts faculties in Australia. We teach Arts across 6 campuses: Berwick, Caulfield, Clayton, Gippsland, and in Malaysia and South Africa. You can add another, our virtual campus; our courses are increasingly available at a distance and over the Internet. Our offerings include the full range of the old and new humanities, from the classics to communications and media studies. Courses offered range from undergraduate diplomas and degrees, faculty certificates, graduate diploma programs through to postgraduate coursework and research degrees. Monash Arts is justly proud of the research capacity of its staff. Lecturers are working at the cutting edge of scholarship in their fields, and they carry their expertise and their enthusiasm into their teaching.

The Faculty of Arts is composed of eight schools as well as Centres: Languages, Cultures and Linguistics; Geography and Environmental Science; Historical Studies; Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences; English, Communications and Performance Studies; Music – Conservatorium; Philosophy and Bioethics; and Political and Social Inquiry, the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies and the Monash European and EU Centre.

The Faculty has 5,737 EFTSL, of which 5,089 are undergraduate, 327 are postgraduate coursework, and 321 are higher degrees by research students. The Faculty's budget is approximately \$90M and there are 344 academic staff and 133 general/professional staff.

The Faculty's goal is to provide high quality service to students, staff and the public by offering accurate and timely information.

The School of Geography and Environmental Science

The School of Geography and Environmental Science (SGES) is a complex multidisciplinary school with units, research fields and technologies spanning the humanities, economics, social, earth, environmental, information engineering and biological sciences, with an emphasis on global and Australian governmental and industry engagement. It is classed as a large school within the Faculty of Arts due to its complexity and research productivity. It includes the Centre of Palynology and Palaeoecology, the Centre for Geographical Information Systems, the Australian Indigenous Archaeology Program, the Regional and Urban Planning Program, and the Monash Centre for Corporate Environmental Management (Monash Sustainability Enterprises) and also provides technical services to the Faculty of Arts and Monash University.

The School's activities may be described under the broad scope of environmental change, and excels in the research fields of palaeoecology, climatology, environmental governance and policy, international development, indigenous archaeology, and human impact.

The School has some 26 academic staff, 28 research fellows and assistants, 11 honorary research associates and 11 general staff. Student load is 275 EFSTL, of which 35.7 are higher degree research students, 56 other postgraduate students (Masters Coursework and Graduate Diploma) with 183.3 EFTSL of undergraduate students. Students are drawn from the faculties of Arts, Science, Law, Engineering and Economics.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

National Urban Water Governance Program Research Fellow Position, Level A, 1-year fixed-term (with possible extension).

A Research Fellow is sought to join the National Urban Water Governance Program (herein referred to as “the Program”) within the School of Geography and Environmental Science. With a higher degree within the broad area of environmental sustainability management and graduate experience, the successful applicant will be joining a small and highly energetic research team to conduct both team-based and independent research associated with the Program. This will include activities such as literature reviews, research interviews, industry focus groups and on-line surveys. The candidate will have a unique opportunity to work closely with industry research partners from the urban water sector, which includes water authorities, local government, catchment management authorities and state regulatory bodies across Australia.

One of the major research projects to be undertaken by the selectee is to critically scope stakeholder risk perceptions and to understand the role such perceptions play in constraining the development of decentralised urban water services in Australia. By exploring practitioners’ risk perceptions, a detailed knowledge-base can be generated to assist in promoting public policy debates about the role of decentralised water service delivery in Australia. The research will also facilitate progress towards addressing the range of perceived and substantiated ‘risks’ involved with developing decentralised systems in combination with the conventional, centralised water services framework. The appointment is initially for one year with possible extension.

All applicants shall address the selection criteria as specified below and submit this with a current CV and a copy of PhD abstract no later than 5 pm on Wednesday 2nd December, 2009.

KEY RESULTS AREAS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will:

- conduct guided research tasks including:
 - the conduct of research interviews and other qualitative research;
 - building conceptual models and theoretical frameworks;
 - the visualization of research materials;
 - management and quality control of data from a range of sources;
 - analysis and the interpretation of research;
 - designing workshops and other interactive sessions.
- communicate his or her findings in scientific and stakeholder forums, including:
 - workshops;
 - conferences;
 - publications and presentations commensurate with experience.
- work in a team environment, where it is expected that he or she will:
 - be available to assist other members of the group;
 - assist in the development of funding proposals;
 - attend research meetings and conferences as appropriate;
 - facilitate interactive sessions;
 - record and monitor a group’s progress.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA:

Essential criteria:

1. Doctoral qualification in environmental sustainability management or equivalent, specialising in any of the following areas: urban water management, corporate sustainability, institutional analysis or organisational development.
2. Ability to conceptualise a research problem and design from multiple analytical perspectives.
3. Excellent academic writing and verbal communication skills, placing a high personal value on quality and accuracy at a detailed level.
4. Capacity to lead face-to-face and telephone research interviews with industry professionals, which at times may require a high degree of diplomacy.
5. Ability to plan, organise and achieve work targets, sometimes in demanding circumstances and to report at regular intervals on outcomes related to milestones.
6. Capacity to work enthusiastically and constructively with colleagues within the National Urban Water Governance Program team and its collaborators.
7. Readiness to be delegated key tasks and positively respond to direction from the Program Leader or deputy.
8. Ability to travel interstate both independently and with Program team members as required.
9. A commitment to excellence in research.

Desirable criteria:

1. Experience interacting effectively with multiple industry stakeholders and/or within the urban water sector.
2. Graduate research experience as part of a research team following completion of the highest academic qualification in one or more of the above areas.
3. Capacity to lead group interviews and focus groups.
4. Experience with designing, administering and analysing quantitative survey instruments.
5. Proven track record in scientific publications.