



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Appointment of
Professor of Biology Education
Faculty of Science

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“Welcome to the School of BioSciences. We believe in the paramount importance of achieving societal impact by transforming the lives of the students we teach. For this reason, cultural, curricular and infrastructure innovations in teaching lie at the heart of our ambitions and vision for the future.”

Ute Roessner
Head, School of BioSciences





Our Vision for Learning and Teaching

Our vision for teaching and learning is to provide students with a biosciences education that is globally recognised for its quality and innovation, and prepares them for diverse futures

We are privileged to teach academically gifted and highly motivated students. However, in an increasingly competitive global higher education market, we cannot be complacent about our status as the top-ranked Australian university and preferred institution for study. We must constantly question the quality and relevance of our teaching offerings and seek to offer an educational experience that we can say with confidence is equal to the best in the world. We can and must continue to infuse our teaching with insights from our research.

Our students are increasingly diverse in their backgrounds, motivations, orientations, and future aspirations. To enable every student to thrive and be well-prepared for a rapidly-changing world, we must innovate and adapt our teaching.

We owe it to our students to help them develop not only breadth and depth of disciplinary knowledge, but also the creative, critical-thinking, communication, and teamwork skills that are coveted by employers and required for tackling complex, real-world problems.

Over the next five years, the School will embark on an ambitious program of enabling change, encompassing culture, curriculum, and infrastructure, to ensure that our teaching practices, and students' learning experiences, are demonstrably transformative, evidence-based, authentic, and sustainable.



4 pillars of
BioSciences
teaching & learning



Position Summary

The School of BioSciences invites applications for the position of Professor of Biology Education.

The School of BioSciences at The University of Melbourne seeks a Professorial appointee who will provide academic leadership in the discipline of Biology Education. The appointee will be a globally eminent academic who will be expected to make major contributions in educational research, leadership in developing best practice in university biosciences teaching, and contribute to the School's strategic mission and governance. The appointee will have an outstanding track record in educational research and publication, teaching and leadership.

The University of Melbourne seeks to increase the diversity of the workforce and the representation of women in areas where they have been historically under-represented. Consistent with this, the School of BioSciences is seeking to increase the representation of women in its academic workforce. Pursuant to a special measure under Section 12 (1) of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic), the School therefore strongly encourages applications from suitably qualified female candidates.

The attention of applicants is drawn to the paper, 'Leadership Roles of Melbourne Professors', which clarifies the role of a Professor at The University of Melbourne.



Selection Criteria

ESSENTIAL

- A research doctorate or equivalent in biology or a related discipline
- A distinguished high-profile record of scholarly research and publication in high quality international peer-reviewed journals
- An international reputation for achieving outstanding student outcomes, for the design, implementation and review of educational innovations, educational leadership, and for educational or disciplinary research
- Drive, energy and a vision for building and leading a world-class research program, with a demonstrated track record of consistently attracting external competitive funding from grant agencies and other sources including industry
- Previous leadership roles in curriculum design and review at school, faculty and institutional level including the design or implementation of cross-faculty, cross-campus or team-taught units, courses or projects
- Evidence of having made a major impact on educational policy and curriculum, and a significant contribution to international debate and practice in these areas
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with proven ability to exercise initiative and negotiate positive outcomes
- A commitment to excellence in, and demonstrated capacity for, leadership and innovation in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. An outstanding record in building capacity in learning and teaching in others and in inspiring them to teach well
- An excellent record in attracting and providing supervision to completion of graduate research students
- Demonstrated ability to foster linkages with related disciplines such as education, other areas of biosciences, other disciplines within the sciences, industry and the community
- Ability to work effectively and constructively as part of management and research teams within the School of BioSciences

DESIRABLE

- Understanding of the challenges in the higher education sector in Australia
- Experience in providing guidance and leadership to teams, including strategic planning, monitoring workloads, training and reporting



Key Responsibilities

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- Contribute to the advancement of the discipline of biosciences education by playing a leadership and managerial role in all elements of major research projects
- Produce publications peer-reviewed journals arising from scholarship and research
- Develop collaborative projects around biosciences education with internal and external partners
- Participate in professional activities including attendance and presentations at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise
- Attract and actively supervise high quality postgraduate and research students
- Prepare research proposal submissions to external funding bodies
- Develop innovative strategies and research policy
- Provide leadership in developing external research networks

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- Play a significant leadership role in research and teaching as evidenced by initiatives at School, Faculty and institutional levels
- Drive new engagement initiatives or contribute substantially to existing initiatives by presenting research to the public to elevate public awareness of educational and scientific developments, and promote critical enquiry and public debate within the community

- Seek membership of senior advisory groups to government; Obtain recognition by national or international professional bodies (awards, fellowships, honorary memberships etc.).
- Mentor and support teaching-focussed staff and colleagues inexperienced in biology education research within the school and the University more broadly;
- Actively engage and participate in meetings, presentations, conferences and committee work within the Faculty and the wider university community, as appropriate.
- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Demonstrate strong evidence-based teaching practice across a range of different settings (1st year to postgraduate, large and small group, different learning environments);
- Prepare and deliver high quality innovative class and laboratory experiences
- Participate in course and curriculum design for undergraduate and graduate level subjects
- Contribute to subject coordination, exam marking and assessment
- Contribute to the teaching and supervision of Honours and Masters students
- Provide consultation to students on their academic progress
- Participate in outreach activities to ensure school students exposure to broader perspectives, values, and opportunities



The University of Melbourne

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a public-spirited institution with an outstanding reputation for excellence in research, learning and teaching, and engagement.

With a history of more than 160 years, the University occupies a special place in the heart of Melbourne's intellectual and cultural scene. It offers a vibrant and stimulating environment for more than 7,000 staff members and 50,000 students, including 12,000 international students from more than 120 countries. It has an annual budget exceeding AUD\$ 2billion.

Ranked as the leading university in Australia, and situated at 39 on the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), it is consistently situated among the fastest-rising research universities. The University is counted among the best in the world – 32 by the Times Higher Education (THE) and 26 by the US News & World Report Rankings.

The Melbourne Model

Building on long-standing traditions of leadership and innovation in teaching and embracing international developments in curriculum design, the University introduced the Melbourne Model in 2008. The distinctive educational model offers degrees in three broad cycles. At Bachelor level, students select from one of six broad degrees (offering a total of 87 major fields of study) and a limited number of specialist offerings. These programs lay the intellectual foundations for future employment or further study. Most professional qualifications are subsequently offered at Masters level, where students can choose from a variety of professional or specialist graduate programs offering intensive graduate-level experiences that promote deep professional learning. At Doctoral level, students work alongside and are nurtured by international research leaders in a broad range of fields.

The Melbourne Model's curriculum combines academic breadth with disciplinary depth to strategically reposition the University in an increasingly globalised higher education framework. The University prepares its students to enter a world marked by rapid change where graduates must possess the applicable knowledge, and flexible and adaptable skills, to succeed.



Living and Working in Melbourne

Geography

Melbourne is the capital city of Victoria - and is the second largest city in Australia with a population of more than 4.5 million people and a metropolitan area of 9990.5 km². The Economist Intelligence Unit has rated Melbourne the world's most liveable city for six consecutive years, based on its education, entertainment, health care, research and development, tourism and sport.

The City of Melbourne municipality, in which the University's main Parkville campus is based, covers 37.7 km² and has a population of more than 143,000 people. It includes the city centre and a number of attractive inner suburbs with thriving communities and businesses.

The City of Melbourne is home to residents from 180 countries who speak more than 233 languages and dialects and follow 116 religious faiths. The Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung, Taungurong, Dja Dja Wurrung and the Wathaurung people of the Kulin Nation are the traditional owners of the land now known by its European name of Melbourne.

The City of Melbourne is recognised as Australia's cultural capital with a number of world-class galleries and museums,

internationally renowned food and wine regions, and an impressive year-round calendar of events catering for all tastes.

Parkville Campus

The Parkville campus provides easy access to cafes, shops and services; libraries with extensive collections; as well as cultural and sporting facilities. Nearby Lygon Street is home to a huge variety of cafes and shops while the northern end of the University is adjacent to the popular Princes Park hosting a range of outdoor activities.

Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct, comprising eight hospitals as well as numerous leading research institutes and knowledge-based industries. Although a sizable portion of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences is located in Parkville, the Faculty also has academic departments co-located at a range of health services throughout the Melbourne metropolitan area and rural and regional Victoria. These include St Vincent's Hospital, The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, the Austin Hospital, Western Health, Northern Health as well as the Department of Rural Health based at Shepparton in the Goulburn Valley with health services affiliations to almost 40 smaller towns in rural Victoria.



People and Benefits

The University is committed to providing an intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding workplace that attracts people who are the best in their professional, academic and teaching fields.

Outstanding academic staff are at the heart of the University's teaching, research and engagement endeavours. The University is proud of its many staff who have been recognised through prestigious national and international awards and membership of Australia's learned Academies. Among the many scholars of international renown at the University is the winner of the Nobel Prize – Professor Peter Doherty (Physiology and Medicine) and many other public intellectuals and scientific leaders.

THE BENEFITS

The University offers staff more than just a job – it offers them an opportunity to be part of a dynamic world-class organisation which provides its staff with exceptional benefits and support at every stage of their life and career:

- Working in a culturally inclusive environment
- Engaging in an active and vibrant campus life
- A focus on health and wellbeing
- Outstanding staff benefits in addition to competitive salary packages

Staff benefits on offer at the University include the opportunity to salary package everything from childcare and additional superannuation to subscriptions to the Melbourne Theatre Company. Benefits can be tailored to best suit individual needs and circumstances, including generous relocation support. University course fees can also be salary packaged and come at a 25 per cent discount for staff and their immediate families.

The University also offers a family friendly environment for individuals that need increased flexibility, providing generous leave and working conditions. The University has been recognised as an employer of choice for women and is one of 40 organisations to participate in the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) pilot program of Athena SWAN in Australia.



Further Information

General information about the University of Melbourne is available through its website at www.unimelb.edu.au

About the University of Melbourne
about.unimelb.edu.au

The University of Melbourne's Strategic Plan 2015-2020:
Growing Esteem
growingesteem.unimelb.edu.au

Faculty of Science
science.unimelb.edu.au



Appointment Process and How to Apply

Applications should consist of a full curriculum vitae detailing academic and professional qualifications, full employment history and relevant achievements. CVs should be accompanied by a covering letter describing briefly how candidates meet the criteria outlined in the selection criteria, why the appointment is of interest and what they believe they can bring to the role.

If you wish to discuss this role further in confidence, please contact Raoul Mulder at r.mulder@unimelb.edu.au or by phone; **D: +61 3 8344 6245** | **M +61 410 412 825**

For more information and to submit your application, please visit about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, select 'Current Opportunities', then find the position by title or number.

The University reserves the right to appoint by invitation.



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