



Position Description – Vice-Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow

Position Details

Position Title:	Vice-Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow		
College/Portfolio:	Dependent on the successful applicant's research specialisation		
School/Group:	Dependent on the successful applicant's research specialisation		
Campus Location:	Primarily based at one of the Melbourne campuses (City, Brunswick or Bundoora), and the potential to work across other RMIT campuses as required.		
Classification:	Academic Level D1-D4	Time Fraction:	1.0 FTE
Employment Type:	Fixed Term – 4 years	Fixed Term Reason:	Research
Reporting Line:	A School reporting line through the Dean, or delegate, with dotted line supervision / mentoring by relevant Enabling Impact Platform (EIP) Director/s.		

RMIT University

RMIT is a global university of technology, design and enterprise, committed to creating transformative experiences for students and making a meaningful impact through research, innovation, and engagement.

For more information on RMIT University follow the links below.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about>

<https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/university/rmit-university/>

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/facts-figures>

Our campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick, Bundoora, and Point Cook) are complemented by international campuses in Vietnam and a centre in Barcelona, Spain. We proudly acknowledge the Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung peoples of the eastern Kulin Nation on whose unceded lands our campuses are located.

We are deeply committed to reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination, embedding these values throughout our policies, culture and structures.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-locations-and-facilities>

Why Join RMIT?

Our people are at the heart of everything we do. At RMIT, we value innovation, collaboration and impact. Our values are the heart (durrung) of who we are and what we stand for at RMIT. They guide what we do, how we make decisions, and how we treat each other.



Inclusion



Imagination



Integrity



Courage



Passion



Impact

Learn more about our values: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-strategy/values>

Organisational Accountabilities

RMIT is committed to the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all staff and students. As a staff member, you are expected to comply with all relevant legislation and RMIT policies, including those related to: Equal opportunity, Occupational health and safety, Privacy and trade practices & Child safety standards:

Appointees are responsible for completing all required training and ensuring that they and their team members remain up to date on relevant compliance obligations.

Staff are expected to understand and support RMIT's child safe practices as part of their professional responsibilities. More about our child safety commitment: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-locations-and-facilities/facilities/safety-security/child-safety>.

Leadership at RMIT

At RMIT, leadership is not defined by position or hierarchy—it is a shared responsibility demonstrated by all staff, regardless of role or title. Leadership is grounded in our six core values, which guide and shape how we work together, make decisions, and create impact.

Effective leadership means consistently integrating these values into everyday actions and interactions, whether influencing a project outcome, supporting a colleague, or leading a team. All staff are expected to embody the principles of the *Be–Know–Do* Leadership Model:

Be– We are open and authentic, inclusive and empowering. We are purpose driven role models and communicators.

Know– We are self-aware, and understand our stakeholders, our sector and priorities.

Do– We set clear direction and expectations, we develop ourselves and others and promote mutual accountability to deliver results.

At every level, leadership at RMIT is about influence, contribution, and mindset. It is reflected in how we empower others, foster collaboration, and drive positive change through capability-building and alignment to strategic goals.

Research and Innovation Portfolio

RMIT uses its global presence, urban environment and community and industry connections to capture opportunities and ensure our research makes a difference. Our focus on application and transformation is having a positive impact on communities and the environment. Our aspiration is to make a significant contribution to knowledge in our areas of specialisation and identify and develop innovative approaches to build economic prosperity and to address problems affecting society.

RMIT has eight Enabling Impact Platforms (EIPs) which go beyond a traditional academic discipline-based view of the world. EIPs are clusters of research excellence that can be deployed to deliver significant positive economic, social, and environmental impact. It is through connecting our areas of research excellence and deploying that excellence to address others' needs that RMIT will make a substantial difference. The EIP areas are in Advanced Materials, Manufacturing and Fabrication; Biomedical and Health Innovation; Design and Creative Practice; Global Business Innovation; Information and Systems (engineering), Social Change; Urban Futures; and Sustainable Development Technologies and Systems. Find out more about EIPs at <https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/our-research/enabling-impact-platforms>

Researchers at RMIT University are based in Schools and are affiliated with our EIPs. This enables us to provide focus and support for outcome-related multi-disciplinary research, undertaken in collaboration with leading organisations and industry partners. These collaborations ensure our research outcomes make a difference.

RMIT's Research and Innovation Portfolio supports researchers to help shape the world. The portfolio has an engaged, energetic, talented, and collaborative team focused on enabling excellent research and innovation outcomes. With a global presence, community, and industry connections, we support cutting edge-research and careers that make a positive impact on communities.

The Research and Innovation Portfolio supports researchers and graduate researchers with research partnerships, grants and research contracts, funding opportunities, capability development, research training, ethics and integrity, intellectual property, commercialisation, internships, communication, and profile. Through the School of Graduate Research, the Portfolio is responsible for promoting and enhancing research education and training at RMIT to ensure the highest standard of research candidate experience is possible.

Click [here](#) to find out more about research and innovation at RMIT University and the Research and Innovation Portfolio.

The University's Three Academic Colleges

The College of Business and Law has established a reputation for excellence in business and management education, providing high-quality industry responsive programs relevant to the national and global marketplace.

Click [here](#) to find out more about research in the College of Business and Law.

The College of Design & Social Context encompasses RMIT's art, communication, design, education, humanities, property, and social science discipline areas.

Click [here](#) to find out more about research in the College of Design & Social Context.

The STEM College holds a leading position and expertise in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health (STEM) fields. We are uniquely positioned to influence and partner with industry, as never before.

STEM College is a community of exceptional STEM researchers, teachers, inventors, designers, and game-changers, supported by talented professional staff. We offer higher education programs across all STEM disciplines at the Bachelor, Master and PhD levels, and ensure our students experience an education that is work-aligned and life-changing.

Click [here](#) to find out more about research in STEM College.

Position Summary

The Vice-Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow will be aligned with one or more of RMIT's Strategic Research Priority Areas. They will be located within a School environment but expected to work across disciplines.

The Vice-Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow will be outstanding in their field and will contribute significantly to research outputs and translation, industry and public engagement, building capability of staff, promoting strong research performance, and above all – engaging in research which builds social, environmental and economic benefit and positive change in the world.

The role is primarily to plan, lead, develop, and engage in high quality, transdisciplinary, externally linked and impact-focused research projects, which address local, national, regional, and global challenges in line with the University's Strategic Research Priority areas. The Fellow will be expected to deliver excellent research outcomes with a strong focus on impact and translation.

The Vice-Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow will make significant contributions to planning and strategic direction, taking on academic leadership roles involving participation in committees, networks, projects and alliances within their School, College, the University and with industry, community, government, advocacy, arts, NGO, health or other bodies external to the University, as appropriate.

The Vice-Chancellor's Principal Research Fellow will be expected to attract external research funding, including competitive grants from both national and international sources, and produce high-quality outputs.

The position may undertake limited teaching duties in relevant areas.

The position is open to candidates who do not currently hold a continuing academic appointment with RMIT University.

Key Accountabilities

- Lead and manage high-quality research involving design and development of projects within the foci of one or more of RMIT's Strategic Research Priority Areas, with a strong focus on impact and translation, and interdisciplinary research.
- Make major original and innovative contributions to the field of study or research recognised as outstanding nationally or internationally including:
 - developing highly successful transdisciplinary, impact-focussed research teams;
 - leading publication effort of research team/s;
 - identifying and attracting external research funding, including Australian competitive grants, fellowships, and Industry funding to sustain research growth within the College;
 - supervising higher degree by research candidates.
- Play an outstanding role within the University, discipline and/or profession in research training and in fostering the research activities of others.
- Manage research programs within timelines and budget, ensuring compliance with quality and reporting requirements, including Research Groups and Centres.
- Contribute to School and College research strategy development and participate in University strategy development and governance activities.
- Develop and build collegiality, and embrace diversity, through active interactions and participation in events, forums, workshops in the School, College, and broader research community and networks of the University.
- Assume joint responsibility for career development by actively participating in various activities and producing a jointly agreed development plan.
- Be a positive advocate for research excellence, innovation and translation that supports cutting edge research and makes a positive impact on communities.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Recognised research track record including substantial record of research outputs in high quality outlets and emerging international recognition.
2. Demonstrated experience in identifying and building research projects to address complex challenges in the world.
3. Proven ability to build research alliances and collaborations with bodies external to the university including industry, government, NGO, community, NFP, cultural and other organisations as relevant.
4. Extensive experience in research leadership with the ability to build and develop collaborative research teams, mentor academic staff to deliver high-quality outcomes, attract and secure external research funding to sustain research effort, manage funded research projects including complex budgets and reporting requirements.
5. Extensive experience in supervising higher degree by research candidates to maximise research performance.
6. Demonstrated ability to lead scholarly development and manage and supervise academic staff and teams.
7. Demonstrated understanding of and commitment to financial, governance and quality management systems within a University.
8. Demonstrated high level of interpersonal, communication and negotiating skills including the ability to consult with senior executives, external bodies, produce executive reports, negotiate agreed directions, outcomes and targets within a collaborative environment.
9. Proven ability as an effective member of a management team that develops and achieves shared goals and objectives.
10. Demonstrated track record of values and behaviours consistent with RMIT's enterprise vision, goals and strategic plans see <https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-values>.

Note: For guidance on interview questions, please contact the Talent Acquisition team.

Qualifications

Mandatory: PhD or equivalent in relevant field

Working with Children Check

Appointment to this position is subject to holding a valid Victorian Working with Children Check and other checks as required by the specific role. Maintaining a valid Working With Children Check is a condition of employment at RMIT.

Endorsed:	Signature:	Approved:	Signature:
	Name:		Name:
	Title:		Title:
	Date: July 2026		Date: July 2026