



Position Description – Associate Professor, Human Nutrition

Position Details

Position Title:	Associate Prof, Human Nutrition
College/Portfolio:	STEM
School/Group:	Science/Department of Food Technology and Nutrition
Campus Location:	Based at the Bundoora West campus but is required to work and/or be based at other campuses of the University.
Classification:	Academic Level D
Employment Type:	Continuing
Time Fraction:	1.0 FTE

RMIT University

RMIT is a multi-sector university of technology, design and enterprise. The University's mission is to help shape the world through research, innovation and engagement, and to create transformative experiences for students to prepare them for life and work. 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 three main campuses in Melbourne are located in the heart of the City, Brunswick and Bundoora. Other locations include Point Cook, Hamilton and Bendigo, two campuses in Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) and a centre in Barcelona, Spain. RMIT is a truly global university.

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

We are also committed to redefining our relationship in working with, and supporting, Indigenous self-determination. Our goal is to achieve lasting transformation by maturing our values, culture, policy and structures in a way that embeds reconciliation in everything we do. We are changing our ways of knowing, working and being to support sustainable reconciliation and activate a relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff, students and community. Our three campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick and Bundoora campuses) are located on the unceded lands of the people of the Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation.

Why work at RMIT University

Our people make everything at the University possible. We encourage new approaches to work and learning, stimulating change to drive positive impact. Find out more about working at RMIT University, what we stand for and why we are an Employer of Choice.

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

We want to attract those who will make a difference. View RMIT's impressive standings in university rankings.

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

College/Portfolio/Group

STEM College

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.

The College is renowned for its exemplary research in many STEM areas including advanced manufacturing and design; computing technologies; health innovation and translational medicine; nano materials and devices; and sustainable systems. Our brilliant researchers attract funding from government and industry sources.

Industry is at the heart of what we do. It ensures our research has real world impact, and our students are truly work-ready. Under the leadership of DVC STEM College & Vice President, Digital Innovation, we have established new hubs of industry-connected digital innovation and endeavour and are engaging with global STEM organisations at scale.

Our diversity and shared values empower our work, and we are proud of the College's inclusive, caring culture. We offer a safe, dynamic work environment, and support every member of our community to achieve their potential. The College appointed Victoria's first ever Dean of STEM, Diversity & Inclusion in 2020, and this role drives gender equity, diversity and inclusion strategies across the College.

STEM College employs 1,000 staff who deliver onshore and offshore programs to approximately 20,000 students.

We are here to positively impact the world and create the next generation of STEM leaders.

www.rmit.edu.au/seh

School of Science

The School of Science delivers excellence in applied research and education, engaging in strong impactful industry partnerships and producing skilled, industry-ready graduates. The School employs over 130 academic and around 100 FTE research staff. The School is comprised of five academic Departments:

- Applied Chemistry and Environmental Sciences
- Biology
- Food Technology and Nutrition
- Mathematics and Geospatial Sciences
- Physics

The School has a diverse research portfolio across science and mathematics with international research excellence in quantum science technologies, advanced materials chemistry and catalysis and in water and environmental sciences; in addition to emerging strengths in medical (bio)-technologies, geospatial technologies, mathematics and future food technologies. Annual research income for the School is around \$20 million and the School has just under 400 Higher Degree by Research students.

The School delivers high-quality applied, authentic and active industry-engaged education and teaching to over 3,000 undergraduate- and postgraduate-taught students across 10 ongoing undergraduate and six postgraduate programs, in addition to offshore partnerships and delivery, including in China and Vietnam. Across learning and teaching and research, the School partners actively with industry and external stakeholders in Australia and internationally, delivering innovation, research translation and providing knowledge and real-world solutions for societal good and to enhance sustainable development. The School is strongly committed to promoting and enhancing diversity and inclusion and seeks also to activate and further develop its commitment to and activities in reconciliation and responsible practice. Details of the School can be found at:

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/schools-colleges/science>

Department of Food Technology and Nutrition

The Department of Food Technology and Nutrition at RMIT University is a vibrant and innovative department dedicated to advancing food science, nutrition, and health through applied research, industry collaboration, and practice-based education.

The department comprise of leading researchers and educators, and undertakes cutting-edge research in areas such as food chemistry, microbiology, food safety, functional foods, sustainable food systems, nutrition and consumer science. Our work bridges the gap between scientific discovery and real-world application, supporting innovation in the food industry and contributing to public health outcomes. Research activities are closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), and Climate Action (SDG 13).

Students in our undergraduate and postgraduate programs benefit from hands-on training in state-of-the-art laboratories, engaging in research projects and industry placements that prepare them for impactful careers in food manufacturing, product development, health and nutrition, regulatory agencies, and academia.

Through a strong commitment to sustainability, innovation, and global engagement, the Department of Food Technology and Nutrition at RMIT University plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of food and improving health and well-being locally and globally.

Position Summary

The candidate (Human Nutrition) will contribute to the teaching and research efforts in areas such as human nutrition and clinical studies, nutrition policy and advocacy, sustainable and culturally responsive food systems, and community health promotion. The candidate will play a key role in the delivery and coordination of the department's teaching programs, while actively engaging in research, industry collaboration, and professional and community-based activities.

This role will focus on developing and leading high-impact, translational research aligned with the University's research priorities in the Department of Food Technology and Nutrition. Areas of particular interest include applied and clinical study of food/nutrition/clinical interventions, dietary equity, food system resilience, nutrition entrepreneurship, health-focused food product development, and scalable community nutrition solutions. The successful candidate will be expected to attract external research and enterprise funding, publish in high-quality academic and practitioner outlets, and mentor early-career researchers and students.

The Associate Professor (Human Nutrition) will provide academic leadership in integrating nutrition science for promoting health through food systems innovation across the department's teaching and research activities. The role requires establishing and maintaining strong interdisciplinary networks with internal RMIT stakeholders and external partners across government, not-for-profits, community organisations, and the food industry.

This strategic appointment will strengthen the School's capacity to address pressing global challenges in food security, nutrition equity, and sustainable health-focused food business models. The appointee will also contribute to program design and management, postgraduate supervision, and the continuous enhancement of academic excellence across both public health and food systems education.

Reporting Line

Reports to: Head of Department and Associate Dean, Department of Food Technology & Nutrition
Direct reports: Nil

Organisational Accountabilities

RMIT University is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff. RMIT and its staff must comply with a range of statutory requirements, including equal opportunity, occupational health and safety, privacy and trade practice. RMIT also expects staff to comply with its policy and procedures, which relate to statutory requirements and our ways of working.

RMIT is committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people in our community. Read about our commitment and child safe practices. <https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-locations-and-facilities/facilities/safety-security/child-safety>.

Appointees are accountable for completing training on these matters and ensuring their knowledge and the knowledge of their staff is up to date.

Key Accountabilities

- 1 Make original contributions in teaching and/or scholarship in Human Nutrition, expanding knowledge and best practices within the department. This includes designing and delivering high-quality curriculum across both semesters - covering topics such as population health and nutrition, nutrition policy, dietary assessment, community health promotion, food innovation, and sustainable enterprise - moderating assessments, and applying improvements based on student feedback and course evaluations to enhance learning outcomes.
- 2 Conduct and lead high-quality research in applied and clinical nutrition and food systems entrepreneurship, with areas of focus such as dietary equity, nutrition-related chronic disease prevention, community-based nutrition interventions and/or clinical trials, health-focused food product innovation. The role involves developing and managing successful research projects and interdisciplinary teams, publishing in high-impact journals, securing external research or enterprise funding, and supervising higher degree by research (HDR) candidates with a growing national or international reputation in the field.
- 3 Contribute to the strategic direction, governance, and academic leadership of the Department and School, including active involvement in program design and course leadership at undergraduate, honours, and postgraduate levels. This may involve coordination of large interdisciplinary programs or clusters of smaller courses, ensuring integration of current public health and nutrition challenges and entrepreneurial approaches in teaching.
- 4 Foster research and curriculum innovation that supports diverse knowledge systems, including the integration of Indigenous and community-based food knowledge, socially inclusive health strategies, and sustainable, culturally responsive food system practices. Encourage critical engagement with entrepreneurship models that promote food justice, health equity, and community empowerment.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated ability to coordinate and deliver large foundational and advanced courses in Human Nutrition, taught across both semesters at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This includes the development of high-quality, future-focused curriculum and learning materials, as well as the implementation of innovative, student-centred, and socially inclusive teaching strategies informed by feedback and evaluation.
2. Proven ability to manage large academic programs or a suite of related courses in public health, community nutrition, or food systems, ensuring alignment with academic quality standards, health policy directions, community needs, and emerging trends in food innovation.
3. Demonstrated commitment to student learning and wellbeing, with the ability to foster inclusive and supportive learning environments. Capable of identifying and addressing academic or personal factors that may impact student engagement and success, particularly in community-engaged or entrepreneurial learning contexts.
4. A nationally and internationally recognised research track record in applied and/or clinical nutrition, sustainable food systems, or nutrition-focused entrepreneurship, with a strong and growing record of high-quality peer-reviewed publications, translational outputs, and/or policy or practice-oriented contributions.


5. Extensive experience in research leadership, including the ability to build and lead interdisciplinary research teams, mentor early-career academics and HDR students, attract significant competitive funding (e.g., NHMRC, ARC, MRFF, philanthropic or industry sources), and manage complex projects with diverse partners and budgetary accountability.
6. Proven experience supervising higher degree by research (HDR) candidates, with a strong commitment to research training, capacity building, and improving graduate outcomes in fields related to nutrition, health, and entrepreneurship.
7. Demonstrated ability to lead and manage academic teams, fostering a collegial, collaborative, and high-performing environment that builds excellence in teaching, research, and engagement across the department.
8. Strong understanding of, and commitment to, university governance, academic integrity, and quality assurance systems, including the ability to contribute to program and curriculum development, accreditation, and continuous improvement initiatives.
9. High-level interpersonal, communication, and negotiation skills, with the ability to effectively collaborate with senior leaders, government agencies, community organisations, and food industry stakeholders. Demonstrated experience in preparing executive-level reports, facilitating stakeholder consensus, and delivering outcomes in complex, multi-sector environments.

Qualifications

Mandatory: PhD or equivalent¹ in relevant field.

Note: Appointment to this position is subject to passing a 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.

Preferred: Completion of the [Intro to Learning and Teaching Course \(Login required\)](#) or possess (or eligible to apply for) appropriate [HEA Fellowship \(login required\)](#).

Endorsed:	Signature:  Name: Jayani Chandrapala Title: Head and Associate Dean, Department of Food Technology & Nutrition Date: 15/08/2025	Approved:	Signature: Name: Title: Date:
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¹ Equivalence is defined in the exemption criteria at **Appointment of staff without Doctoral qualifications** instruction