Position Description – Associate Professor, Geotechnical Engineering

Position Details

Position Title: Associate Professor - Geotechnical Engineering

College/Portfolio: STEM College

School/Group: School of Engineering, Department of Civil and Infrastructure Engineering

Campus Location: Primarily based at City campus, and the potential to work across other RMIT campuses as required.

Classification: Academic Level D

Time Fraction: 1.0 FTE

Employment Type: Continuing

Reporting Line: Head of Department – Civil and Infrastructure Engineering

No. of Direct reports: N/A

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.

College/Portfolio/Group

The STEM College holds a leading position in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health (STEM) fields. We are uniquely positioned to influence and partner with industry, and to support collaboration across all areas of STEM.

The STEM College employs 1,000 staff who deliver onshore and offshore programs to approximately 25,000 students. Our vibrant research community attracts funding from a range of government and industry sources in support of high impact research that transforms industries, shapes lives and communities. The College offers 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.

Industry is at the heart of what we do. It ensures our research has real world impact, and our students are truly work-ready. 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 of 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.

The School of Engineering

The School of Engineering is one of the largest Engineering Schools in Australia. It has over 350 staff and 7000 students, including 800 HDR students. The School is committed to driving innovation and collaboration through our industry partnerships. Our industry partners range from small companies to multinational organisations and we work together on translating our research into impact for our partners and the wider community. The School comprises the following Departments:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical and Environmental Engineering
- Civil and Infrastructure Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Mechanical, Manufacturing and Mechatronics Engineering

The School is developing new industry led degrees, where our students learn whilst working for companies, as well as innovation hubs where we will co-locate industry partners, our research teams and our undergraduate students.

Over the next three to five years the School of Engineering will support these new strategic plans through investments in new facilities. This will include reimaging our teaching laboratories, where we will use new digital technologies to enhance the student experience, as well as research labs where partnerships with industry will enable us to maintain leading research facilities.

RMIT is a global university and the School of Engineering has students and research partners across South East Asia and Europe. This includes two campuses in Vietnam, as well as partnerships in Hong Kong, Singapore and we recently entered into a partnership with the Birla Institute of Technology and Science in India. The School also has a research centre in Barcelona, which provides access to European funding and industry partners. The School will continue to grow our international activities with the aim of becoming a globally connected School that translates technologies and training across continents.

https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/schools-colleges/engineering

Position Summary

The Associate Professor will provide academic leadership and foster excellence in teaching and departmental research, with a focus on Computational Geomechanics and strong industry collaborations including translation of geotechnical engineering applications. The role is expected to drive success in securing research funding and delivering high-quality research outputs. The preferred candidate will have strong expertise in numerical modelling of soil behaviour, with the ability to develop advanced constitutive models, simulation frameworks, and predictive tools for geotechnical design, supported by a demonstrated track record of industry translations. More specifically, the Associate Professor is responsible for providing original, innovative and distinguished contributions to the School's programs for maintaining and advancing their scholarly, research and/or professional capabilities relevant to this discipline at a national and international level. The Associate Professor will also teach and make a significant contribution to teaching and learning in the discipline with the aim of improving learning outcomes for students. The Associate Professor will make a significant contribution to the planning and strategic direction of the department, taking on academic leadership roles involving participation in various committees within the Department, School, College and University and external to the University, as appropriate. The role is expected to bridge academic research with practical engineering applications by collaborating with industry and/or government agencies to apply research findings to real-world problems.

Key Accountabilities

- Lead advancement of teaching in the discipline including initiating program improvements, improving academic standards, leading assessment design, conduct and moderation.
- Lead research contribution in their discipline at national and international level including: developing highly successful research teams; leading publication effort of research team/s; identifying and attracting external research funding to sustain research growth within the College; supervising higher degree by research candidates.
- Lead outstanding contribution to the teaching, research and/or scholarship activities of an organisational unit, including a large organisational unit, or interdisciplinary area.
- Make an outstanding contribution to the governance and collegial life inside and outside of the University.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated ability to direct an award program/s and implement program improvements and innovative approaches to student-centred learning and quality improvement programs.
2. Nationally recognised research track record including substantial record of research outputs in high-quality outlets and emerging international recognition in computational geomechanics, offshore geotechnics and soil-structure interaction modelling.
3. Demonstrated experience of bridging the academic research with practical geotechnical engineering applications by collaborating with industry and government agencies.
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 teams and members.
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.

Qualifications

Mandatory: PhD in Civil Engineering

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

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.