



Position Description – Director, WEFT Research Centre

Position Details

Position Title:	Director, WEFT Research Centre
College/Portfolio:	College of Design and Social Context
School/Group:	School of Fashion and Textiles
Campus Location:	Based at the Brunswick campus, however may be required to work and/or be based at other campuses of the University.
Classification:	Academic Level D
Employment Type:	Fixed term, 3 years, with underlying continuing appointment
Time Fraction:	1.0 (0.5 as Centre Director)

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, Bundoora and Point Cook, along with other Victorian locations. There are also 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>

About the College of Design and Social Context

RMIT's College of Design & Social Context brings together creative and practical study in the fields of design, technology and society. Comprised of nine schools, the College encompasses a wide variety of disciplines of the built environment, education, media & communication, global & social studies and across all fields of art and design. It is this breadth of expertise and the shared commitment to addressing the most urgent challenges and opportunities of our time through interdisciplinary collaboration that gives the College its unique identity.

Our work makes substantive contributions to sustainability and regenerative futures, global and social justice agendas and exploring the nexus of technology and the human experience. We seek to deepen our understanding and offer possible paths forward for society by addressing these issues with imagination, rigour, and practicality. We do this through excellence in education and research that is future-focused, industry-connected and community engaged.

With over 21,000 students in Australia and Vietnam – from undergraduate students to PhD candidates – learning and researching with a team of over 1000 academics, we are dedicated to fostering an environment that advances knowledge and transforms professional practice. Through our highly respected research centres, groups and international partnerships, the College is having an impact globally with agenda-setting research that informs government policy, supports industry innovation and advances creative practice.

The College has a significant presence in Asia and Europe through higher education programs and active research projects. This includes programs at RMIT's Vietnam campus and with partner organisations in Singapore and Hong Kong, and research activity at RMIT Europe, the University's innovation hub in Barcelona.

The College is recognised globally for its standing across numerous fields with Art and Design maintaining its number one spot in Australia and the Asia-Pacific, and 19th globally, in the 2023 QS World Rankings by Subject. Architecture and the Built Environment ranks second in Australia and 25th globally while Communications and Media Studies is ranked fourth in Australia and in the top 50 globally.

For more information see www.rmit.edu.au/dsc

About the School of Fashion & Textiles and WEFT Research Centre

The School of Fashion and Textiles is world renowned as a dynamic and progressive educational leader whose impact influences the future of fashion and textiles. Informed by global awareness, astute knowledge of industry, and a commitment to responsible practice, the school leads in creative and entrepreneurial domains. Staff are engaged as both practitioners and researchers, and are active as fashion and textile designers, curators, technology drivers, business innovators and leaders of industry. Their expertise and active engagement with all levels of industry allows students to stay up to date with current sector needs throughout their studies, meaning that graduates are highly sought after by industry and can find positions in all areas of the global fashion and textiles value chain. Students make their mark through sustainable and independent design practices and contribute significantly to management and business operations through strategic fashion entrepreneurship.

The WEFT Research Centre focuses on fashion and textiles research to bring about positive change for a just and sustainable world. The Centre brings together researchers in creative practice, social sciences and humanities, business, material science and textile engineering through three interlacing themes:

- Materials and Products - developing advanced textiles, smart clothing, and products that offer solutions for protection, performance, and sustainability.
- Circular Systems - exploring the transition of the fashion and textiles industry from linear models to circular systems through regenerative practices and industry renewal.
- Ways of Being - reimagining fashion and textiles to promote equality, diversity, and inclusivity for all beings, working towards creating better and more positive future worlds.

Position Summary

As the Director of WEFT there is a requirement to deliver the relaunch of the Centre and refinement of a business plan and advisory group, and an opportunity to shape the trajectory of the Centre with inputs from this group, the former director as mentor, and others across the University.

The Director has a close working relationship with the host Dean (School of Fashion & Textiles) and Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation (ADVC R&I) in DSC and will be accountable to them for their cross-RMIT work.

The role is split between engagement – both external partnership development and internal research team building - and research development, according to credentials in line with the applicable workload allocation model. The Centre Director is also expected to offer and/or contribute to post-graduate teaching, doctoral training, and executive education in cognate areas. The Director ensures delivery of the Centre activities; promotes engagement and participation with and in the Centre; delivers high quality grant applications, and; draw links to learning and teaching and other partnerships as relevant across RMIT.

Reporting Line

Reports to: Dean, plus dotted line to ADVC R&

Direct reports: TBC

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

- Lead and manage the Centre to ensure the delivery of high quality, high impact research outcomes. This includes leading revisioning or reviews of research foci, the development and implementation of a 3-year business plan and annual workplans for the Centre to secure significant external funding and identify strategic opportunities for large, programmatic grants and funding, and build specific interdisciplinary and cross-college initiatives to achieve them
- Communicate research outcomes for research translation, impact and reputation building and positioning, nationally and internationally
- Develop and maintain relationships between academics, HDR candidates and professional staff around the Centre's themes in order to foster research communities and maximise quality and impact of research in the chosen strengths of the Centre
- Lead and manage research staff located in the Centre
- Ensure effective governance, quality management and policy compliance of the Centre, including the formation of an Advisory Board and regular review and reporting.

- Participate in relevant School, College and University forums
- Undertake research and professional activity as appropriate and as negotiated via the annual workplan process

Key Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated ability to develop, lead and deliver significant research initiatives and secure external funding for research projects and programs
2. Demonstrated ability to identify strategic opportunities and develop a vision that inspires cross-disciplinary collaborations
3. Proven leadership skills and experience in managing research teams and projects in a highly collegiate environment
4. Evidence of strong industry networks and relationships and detailed knowledge of current relevant industry trends
5. Demonstrated distinction at the national level and an internationally recognised research track record
6. Demonstrated high level interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills, including the ability to work and build relationships with senior executives and external bodies
7. Demonstrated experience in financial, governance and quality management systems within a university.

Qualifications

PhD in relevant area.

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.

Endorsed:	Signature: Name: Title: Date:	Approved:	Signature: Name: Title: Date:
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