



Position Description – Professor, Communication Design

Position Details

Position Title: Professor, Communication Design

College/Portfolio: College of Design and Social Context

School/Group: School of Design

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

Classification: Academic Level E

Time Fraction: 1.0FTE

Employment Type: Continuing

Reporting Line: Dean, School of Design

No. of Direct reports: Varies

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.



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 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

School of Design

The School of Design is a School comprised of the disciplines of Industrial Design, Digital Design (including Animation, Digital Media and Games) and Communication Design.

The School builds on RMIT's leading national and international reputation in design education by creating a specific focus on emerging areas such as UX and service design, design strategy and virtual and augmented reality.

It comprises approximately 100 academic and 11 professional staff and over 3000 EFT undergraduate and postgraduate students with expectations of growth.

For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/about/schools-colleges/design.

Position Summary

The Professor is a senior academic and eminent researcher in the specialist field, contributing significantly to teaching and research outputs, building capability of staff and promoting strong academic performance. The Professor will provide high level research leadership developing and leading research project teams and programs and fostering a vibrant research culture. He or she will be required to develop a high-quality and productivity-driven research network across RMIT and with external national and global partners. The 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 Professor will make a significant contribution to the planning and strategic direction of the School, taking on major academic leadership roles involving participation in various committees within the School, College and University and external to the University, as appropriate.

Key Accountabilities

1. Lead and foster excellence in teaching and research in the discipline within the University and within the community, professional, commercial or industrial sectors.
2. Ensure implementation of best practice teaching strategies within discipline and dissemination of innovative practices across the University, including: initiating responses to emergent issues and integrating into curriculum development; leading improvement of academic standards, program review and course evaluations within and across disciplines.

3. Having achieved distinction at national and international levels and with recognition as an eminent authority in the discipline, lead research contribution including: leading publication effort of research team/s and extending dissemination activities; identifying and attracting external research funding to sustain research growth across the University; supervising higher degree by research candidates.
4. Provide leadership and foster excellence in policy development in the academic discipline within the University and within the community, professional, commercial or industrial sectors.
5. Lead School and College and participate in University strategy development and governance.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated ability to manage award program/s and lead program reviews.
2. Demonstrate distinction at the national level and an internationally recognised research track record.
3. Proven ability to sustain and grow Research Groups and Centres through the attraction of external funding.
4. Extensive experience in attracting and supervising higher degree by research candidates to maximise research performance.
5. Demonstrated ability to lead improvement of academic standards, including implementing best practice teaching strategies and dissemination of innovative practices.
6. Evidence of demonstrated strategic leadership in a large organisational unit or University-wide initiative and effective membership of a management team that developed and achieved shared goals and objectives.
7. Demonstrated experience in 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.

Qualifications

Mandatory: PhD 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.