



## Position Description – Research Fellow

### Position Details

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<b>Position Title:</b>	Research Fellow
<b>College/Portfolio:</b>	College of Design and Social Context
<b>School/Group:</b>	School of Global, Urban and Social Studies
<b>Campus Location:</b>	Based at the city campus but may be required to work at other campuses of the University.
<b>Classification:</b>	Academic Level A or B, depending on experience
<b>Employment Type:</b>	2.5 - 3.5 years fixed-term, depending on time fraction (research project based)
<b>Time Fraction:</b>	Negotiable 0.6 – 1.0 FTE

### RMIT University

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RMIT is a multi-sector university of technology, design and enterprise with more than 96,000 students and close to 10,000 staff globally. 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.

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

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

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

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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>

### The College of Design and Social Context (DSC)

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The College of Design and Social Context encompasses RMIT University's renowned art, architecture, design, built environment, communication, and social science disciplines. The college has 24,500 students and over 1,000 staff located in 8 schools.

The College's academic programs are generally market leaders and in high demand. Based on a strong foundation of practise led, industry partnered teaching and research, we aim to deliver skilled graduates with a deep sense of purpose, and high impact research and innovation.

For more information see [www.rmit.edu.au/dsc](http://www.rmit.edu.au/dsc)

### **School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (GUSS)**

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Located in the heart of Melbourne on RMIT's City Campus, the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies is one of RMIT's largest schools. The School's vision is to contribute to a just and sustainable world, and to deliver education, training and research in four areas of focus:

- Criminology, legal and justice studies
- Global studies, languages, translating and interpreting
- Social work, youth work and social policy
- Sustainability and urban planning

We provide academic programs in Higher Education in these four main areas. We are a strongly research active school with research centres of national and international reputation - the Centre for Urban Research and the Social and Global Studies Centre.

With outstanding industry links, strong pathways and excellent research records, most of the School's academic programs are leaders in the market and in high demand. We aim to ensure every student has a transformative experience to prepare them for life and work in the growing professional areas of the future.

For more information, see <http://www.rmit.edu.au/socialhumanities>

### **Position Summary**

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This is an exciting opportunity for a Research Fellow to play a leading role in an interdisciplinary conservation project focused on private protected areas in Australia. The position is funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Project titled "*More than a reserve? Measuring the benefits of private protected areas*". This project is designed improve how we understand, measure and report on the benefits derived from private protected areas (PPAs) in Australia. It will develop a new theoretical approach and apply this to measure the ecological, socio-cultural, and economic benefits generated by PPAs to both human and non-human beneficiaries.

The project investigator team is as follows:

- Dr Ascelin Gordon (Lead Chief Investigator, RMIT University)
- Dr Katie Moon (Chief Investigator, University of New South Wales, Canberra)
- Dr Sayed Iftekhar (Chief Investigator, Griffith University)
- Prof Kerrie Wilson (Chief Investigator, Queensland University of Technology)
- Dr Rebecca Spindler (Partner Investigator, Bush Heritage)
- Dr James Fitzsimons (Partner Investigator, The Nature Conservancy Australia)
- It will also comprise a PhD student, who may be co-supervised by the Research Fellow.

Industry partners for the project are Bush Heritage Australia, Birdlife Australia, Trust for Nature, and The Australian Land Conservation Alliance. These organisations have identified a selection of PPAs they manage that may be used as case studies in the project.

The Research Fellow will be involved all aspects of the project, working closely with the investigators. The role will focus on processes for identifying the range of beneficiaries relevant to PPAs and generating the theoretical framework for understanding and measuring the benefit streams flowing from the PPAs to these beneficiaries. It will also involve gathering and analysis data to measure benefit streams. It is likely the benefit streams investigated would include ecological, socio-cultural, and economic aspects, thus, we are open to considering applicants with backgrounds in one or more of ecology/conservation, social science, and/or environmental economics. The ideal applicant would have some knowledge of all three domains with expertise in at least one of them, in addition to some knowledge of protected areas and private protected areas in Australia. This position will also involve contributing to the administration and logistics of the project and may involve travel to one or more case study PPAs to gather data, which have been identified in Western Australia, South Australia, NSW, and Victoria.

**Reporting Line**

Reports to: Dr Ascelin Gordon, Centre for Urban Research, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies

**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. Conduct high quality research individually or as part of a team including: managing research projects within timelines and budget and ensuring ethics approval and compliance with quality and reporting requirements; publishing research outputs in high quality journals as lead or co-author; and potentially supervising higher degree by research candidates.
2. Develop and communicate research outputs and outcomes in research and practice-based workshops, seminars, conferences, and symposia.
3. Work closely with interdisciplinary team members - including domestic and international scholars and industry partners.
4. Actively contribute to the development of research strategy within the research team, ensuring it aligns to University strategy.

**Key Selection Criteria**

1. Evidence of research experience related to biodiversity conservation practice or policy, and ideally protected areas, using approaches from one or more of the disciplines of ecology, social science or environmental economics. Candidates with experience in two or more of these disciplines will be highly valued.
2. Emerging track record and recognition for quality research outputs in one or more of the discipline areas of the project, evidenced by publications, development of new research initiatives, and relevant industry experience. Previous success in competitive research funding and experience with ethics applications are desirable.
3. A strong, demonstrated commitment to working in a team environment, with the ability to effectively work with colleagues and industry partners confidently and respectfully.
5. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills appropriate for interacting with the multidisciplinary research team and industry partners, together with experience effectively communicating research outputs in workshops and conferences.
4. Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and efficiently manage varying workloads, responding to changing priorities as required.
5. Potential to supervise higher degree by research candidates.

**Qualifications**

**Mandatory:** PhD or equivalent in relevant field.

**Eligibility:** Only applications that meet mandatory qualification requirements and clearly respond to each Key Selection Criteria will be considered.

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

<b>Endorsed:</b>	Signature:	<b>Approved:</b>	Signature:
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	Name: Title: Dean of School, GUSS Date:		Name: Title: DVC & Vice President, DSC Date:
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