



Position Description – Senior Program Manager, RACE and RAIL

Position Details

Position Title: Senior Program Manager, RACE and RAIL

College/Portfolio: Research & Innovation **School/Group:** Research Infrastructure

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

Classification: HEW 10A

Time Fraction: 1.0

Employment Type: Continuing

Reporting Line: Director, Digital Research

Infrastructure No. of Direct reports: 4

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 demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation and Indigenous self-determination by embedding these values through Responsible Practice across 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.

Research and Innovation Portfolio

RMIT's Research and Innovation Portfolio supports researchers to help shape the world. The Portfolio has an engaged, energetic, talented, and collaborative team focused on enabling excellent research and innovation outcomes, and on empowering staff. With a global presence, community, and industry connections, we support cutting-edge research and careers that make a positive impact on communities.

The Research and Innovation Portfolio supports researchers and graduate researchers with research partnerships, grants and research contracts, funding opportunities, capability development, research training, ethics and integrity, intellectual property, commercialisation, internships, communication, and profile.

Click [here](#) to find out more about research and innovation at RMIT University and the Research and Innovation Portfolio

Position Summary

The Senior Program Manager, RACE (RMIT Advanced Computing Ecosystem) and RAIL (RMIT AWS Innovation Lab) is a senior leadership role within RMIT's Digital Research Infrastructure portfolio. This position holds primary accountability for the strategic planning, operational management, and continuous improvement of RMIT's flagship cloud supercomputing facility, RACE, Australia's first dedicated commercial cloud supercomputing facility established in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) and AARNet, and RAIL, RMIT's strategic collaboration with AWS designed to accelerate translational research, digital innovation, and industry engagement through advanced cloud technologies, AI, and data services.

The Senior Program Manager provides high-level leadership across program governance, financial stewardship, stakeholder engagement, and service delivery to ensure RACE and RAIL meet the evolving research computing and translational research needs of RMIT's researchers, HDR students, academics, and industry partners. This role is responsible for driving the day-to-day operations of both platforms, including oversight of merit allocation schemes, training programs, technical support services, and partnership development with AWS, Microsoft and other external collaborators. The role also supports researchers in accessing NCI resources, facilitating contract negotiations, and reporting on usage to meet compliance, strategic planning, and operational needs. The position leads a multidisciplinary team, fosters a culture of innovation and inclusion, and contributes to the University's strategic research agenda by ensuring world-class digital research infrastructure that enables transformative research outcomes at scale.

Key Accountabilities

1. Lead the strategic planning, development, and continuous improvement of RACE and RAIL in alignment with RMIT's Research Strategy and Digital Research Infrastructure Roadmap, providing authoritative advice to the ADVC, Research Infrastructure and the Director, Digital Research Infrastructure, on emerging trends in cloud computing, AI, and research technology platforms.
2. Drive the day-to-day operations of RACE and RAIL, ensuring high-quality, reliable, and scalable research computing services that meet the evolving needs of researchers, HDR students, academics, and industry partners.
3. Develop and maintain program governance frameworks, including risk management, compliance, performance reporting, and service-level agreements to ensure platform performance and accountability.
4. Manage significant program budgets including AWS or Microsoft Azure cloud credit allocations, operational expenditure, and co-investment funds, ensuring financial sustainability, value for money, and alignment with university procurement policies.
5. Oversee the design and delivery of access and allocation schemes, training programs, technical support services, and user onboarding to maximise adoption, lower barriers to entry, and ensure equitable resource distribution.
6. Build and maintain high-level strategic partnerships with AWS, Microsoft, ARDC, NCI, and other external collaborators to advance platform capabilities, co-innovation opportunities, and industry engagement.
7. Support RMIT researchers in accessing National Computational Infrastructure (NCI) resources, facilitate contract negotiation processes to secure and maintain institutional access agreements, and report on NCI resource usage to fulfil compliance, strategic planning, and operational needs.
8. Engage with RMIT's research community and internal stakeholders across Colleges, Schools, Research Centres, and Professional Services to understand computational needs, drive cross-institutional adoption, and translate requirements into service enhancements.
9. Lead, mentor, and develop a multidisciplinary team of technical, operational, and administrative professionals, fostering a high-performance culture of innovation, inclusion, and continuous learning.
10. Enable transformative research outcomes at scale by supporting data-intensive, AI-driven, and computationally complex research, and by driving research translation through RAIL's innovation programs, proof-of-concept initiatives, and industry partnerships.
11. Represent RACE and RAIL at senior leadership forums, national and international conferences, advisory bodies, and industry events to promote RMIT's digital research infrastructure leadership and contribute to sector-wide strategy.

Key Selection Criteria

Essential:

1. PhD in a relevant discipline (e.g., computer science, engineering, information technology, data science, or a research-intensive field) or equivalent extensive senior leadership experience in digital research infrastructure, high-performance computing, or cloud-based research environments.
2. Demonstrated senior leadership experience in managing complex, multi-stakeholder programs involving cloud computing, digital research infrastructure, or technology platforms within a university or research-intensive organisation.
3. Proven ability to provide strategic advice and influence at executive level, including experience supporting senior leaders on matters of digital research infrastructure strategy, investment, and policy.
4. Significant experience in financial stewardship, including management of substantial program budgets, cloud credit allocations, procurement, and development of business cases for infrastructure investment.
5. Track record of building and sustaining high-level partnerships with major technology providers (e.g., AWS, Microsoft), government agencies, and sector bodies to deliver co-innovation and shared value outcomes.
6. Demonstrated ability to lead, develop, and inspire multidisciplinary teams, with a commitment to fostering high-performance culture, inclusion, and continuous professional development.
7. Excellent stakeholder engagement and communication skills, with the ability to translate complex technical concepts into compelling narratives for diverse audiences including researchers, executives, and industry partners.
8. Strong understanding of the research lifecycle and the role of advanced computing, AI, and data services in enabling data-intensive and translational research outcomes at scale.

Desirable:

9. Experience with cloud supercomputing platforms (e.g., AWS, Azure) in a research or innovation context, including familiarity with merit allocation schemes, HPC workloads, or research cloud governance.
10. Knowledge of the Australian research and higher education sector, including familiarity with NCRIS facilities (e.g., NCI, Pawsey, ARDC) and national peak funding bodies (e.g., ARC, NHMRC, CRC).
11. Formal qualifications or certifications in project/program management or change management methodologies.
12. Experience in research translation, commercialisation, or industry engagement programs that leverage advanced digital technologies to deliver societal and economic impact.

Qualifications

Mandatory: PhD degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Engineering, or a related field (or equivalent experience).

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.