



Job Description – Dean, Research and Innovation

Position Details

Position Title:	Dean, Research and Innovation
Division/ Centre:	RMIT Vietnam
Department:	Research and Innovation
Campus Location:	Based at the Ho Chi Minh campus but may be required to work and/or be based at other campuses of RMIT Vietnam.
Job Grade/ Classification:	Academic Level E (Professor)
Time Fraction:	Full Time

RMIT University

RMIT is a leading multi-sector university of technology, design and enterprise with more than 90,000 students and 10,000 staff globally. We offer postgraduate, undergraduate, vocational education and online programs to provide students with a variety of work-relevant pathways.

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.

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. In Vietnam RMIT has two campuses (Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi) and an English language centre (Da Nang). RMIT also has a European hub in Barcelona, Spain, as a gateway for European research, industry, and government partnerships. Programs are offered through transnational partners in Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, India and mainland China, with research and industry partnerships on every continent.

RMIT Standings in university rankings

RMIT is ranked 125th in the 2026 QS World University Rankings consolidating its reputation as a global leader in education and research. The University is also now ranked 10th in Australia.

The University is ranked 5th globally for its work to reduce inequalities (SDG 10), 30th in supporting decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), and overall 56th worldwide in the 2025 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

RMIT has eight subject areas ranked in the top 100 globally in the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject. Four subjects retained their place in the top 50 with Art and Design also maintaining its number one position in Australia. Other standout results included Architecture and the Built Environment, ranked second in Australia and 25th globally, Communication and Media Studies, 4th in Australia and 42nd globally and Library & Information Management coming in at 2nd in Australia and 29th globally. Business and Management ranks 7th in Australia.

www.rmit.edu.au/about

RMIT Vietnam

RMIT University Vietnam (RMIT Vietnam) is a campus of RMIT University and was established in the year 2000. As the leading international university in Vietnam with over 12,000 students, RMIT Vietnam has a high-quality, innovative teaching and learning culture, and a growing research and innovation capability. We provide internationally recognised high-quality education and research aligned to the needs of the Vietnam and ASEAN region. As an internationally recognised Australian university based in South-East Asia, RMIT Vietnam is assisting in the development of human resources capability in Vietnam and the region. Our teaching and research is highly engaged with industry across the region.

Degrees are awarded by RMIT University in Australia, allowing Vietnamese students to receive an overseas education without having to leave home. Given its international profile, RMIT Vietnam is also host to students from Australia and many other countries. All degree programs are recognised by the Vietnamese Ministry of Education

and Training (MOET) and are subject to regulation by the Australian Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency. The academic programs span from English Language training through to undergraduate, post-graduate and PhD programs. All teaching at RMIT Vietnam is in English and maintain the same standards as Australia.

www.rmit.edu.vn

Position Summary

RMIT Vietnam is seeking a visionary and dynamic leader to serve as the Dean, Research and Innovation (R&I). This role is pivotal in advancing the University's research agenda, fostering innovation, and enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration across our Saigon South and Hanoi campuses. The Dean, R&I, in close collaboration with the Pro Vice-Chancellor and General Director Vietnam, School Deans, Deputy Deans R&I, academic and professional communities, and the R&I Portfolio at RMIT Australia, will lead strategic initiatives aimed at expanding RMIT Vietnam's research and innovation impact in Vietnam and the Southeast Asia region more broadly. As a senior leader for research at RMIT Vietnam, this role will champion a research culture of impact through the delivery of high-quality PhD programs, research partnerships and translation, grants and research contracts, funding opportunities, capability development, research training, ethics and integrity, intellectual property and commercialisation. The Dean, R&I will lead the Office of Research and Innovation in Vietnam comprising of professional staff who support researchers and the management of research activities.

Reporting Line

Reports to:	Pro Vice-Chancellor & General Director, RMIT Vietnam
Direct reports:	Head, Office for Research and Innovation; and Executive Assistant to the Dean, Research and Innovation
Key relationships:	Deans of School (Vietnam), Executive Leadership Team in Vietnam, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Innovation (Melbourne), School of Graduate Research and Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research Training and Development (Melbourne), Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation in Colleges (Melbourne).

Key Accountabilities

- Strategic leadership and governance:** Develop, lead and implement a comprehensive research and innovation strategy aligned with the University's [mission and goals](#). As a senior academic leader for research you will be a critical member of the Executive Leadership Team and support good governance through membership of University research committees and as Chair of the Vietnam Research Committee.
- Research training culture:** RMIT Vietnam has ambitious goals to support Vietnam's growth of the research and innovation ecosystem. Driving a vibrant cohort of Higher Degree by Research candidates based at RMIT Vietnam will be critical to the role that RMIT plays in the R&I ecosystem in Vietnam.
- Research quality and capability:** Oversee the design, development and delivery of a research capability framework that uplifts research quality, establishes research expectations, improves performance and places RMIT as a top employer for talent in the region where academic careers with thriving opportunities of research are made available. This will also include opportunities to attract leading research fellows to Vietnam to lead a research agenda of impact that aligns with the University's *Knowledge with Action* strategy.
- Research partnerships and translation:** Lead and support the research community at RMIT Vietnam and enable researchers to realise the social, environmental and commercial impact of their research. Lead and facilitate the commercialisation of research outcomes, including patents, licensing, and startups (where required) and promote RMIT's research impact around the region.
- Transdisciplinary collaboration and large-scale initiatives:** Foster a culture of transdisciplinary research collaboration among faculty, departments and external partners to advance interdisciplinary research and partnerships with industry, government and local universities. This will include the strategic direction of large-scale research initiatives such as Horizon Europe and international development funding.
- High quality research services:** Oversee the implementation of research services and enablers with the Head of the Office for Research and Innovation at RMIT Vietnam to promote best practice in research management and administration at RMIT Vietnam that ensures research is conducted with integrity.
- Research reporting and systems:** Monitor and assess the performance of research programs and initiatives, ensuring continuous improvement and impact as aligned with the University's *Knowledge with Action* goals.
- Compliance and ethics:** Be a leader that drives a culture of research integrity and promote the conduct of research in line with ethical standards, regulatory requirements and university policies.

9. **Resource management:** Oversee the allocation and management of central research funds, facilities and resources which includes things like PhD scholarships, seed funding and research spaces.
10. **Collaborative approach:** Engage with staff and HDR candidates across all relevant teams at RMIT Vietnam, Melbourne and Europe to ensure consultation, communication and good governance for research and innovation.
11. **Champion a positive research culture:** Any other initiative, as required, to build a strong and supportive research culture at RMIT Vietnam that inspires the academic community to contribute to the uplift of the communities we serve.

Key Selection Criteria

1. **Educational background:** A PhD in a relevant field.
2. **Experience:** Extensive experience in academic research, with a strong track record of impactful scholarship and leading large-scale research initiatives and PhD programs. It is expected that the Dean will continue to develop their scholarship and research impact within their field of expertise.
3. **Leadership skills:** Proven ability to lead and manage diverse teams, with excellent organisational and strategic planning skills. A passion for developing emerging researchers through our PhD programs and Early Career Researchers in collaboration with senior researchers across our academic schools.
4. **Research excellence:** Demonstrated success in enabling research excellence with a focus on research impact and government, industry and academic partnerships.
5. **Innovation expertise:** Experience in promoting and managing innovation and commercialisation activities.
6. **Collaboration:** Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with a commitment to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.
7. **Ethical standards:** Deep understanding of research ethics, compliance and regulatory requirements. Ability to display appropriate behaviours in line with the position and RMIT Values (Inclusion, Courage, Imagination, Impact, Integrity and Passion). An understanding of the Australian higher education sector is beneficial but not required.

Other preferences

8. Experience in a similar leadership role within a higher education institution. Experience with international education, foreign branch campuses or multi-cultural environment is desirable.
9. Established network of contacts in the academic, industry, and government sectors.
10. Knowledge of emerging trends and best practices in research and innovation.

English Proficiency

English is the language of teaching and communication at RMIT Vietnam. For this role, the minimum requirement is IELTS (General) with a score of at least 7.5 (or equivalent, as outlined in the Recruitment, Selection and Onboarding Guidelines).

For any role, English Language Proficiency may also be proven by showing successful completion of secondary education to a level qualifying to enter university study while being instructed through the medium of English, as per the RMIT University recognised qualification list.

Organisational Accountabilities

RMIT Vietnam is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff members. RMIT Vietnam and its staff members must comply with a range of Vietnamese legal and regulatory requirements, including foreign investment & business, import & export, contracts & commerce, banking, finance & foreign exchange, labour, taxation, land & premises, environment, and immigration. RMIT Vietnam expects all staff members to comply with its Code of Conduct, policies and procedures, which relate to legal and regulatory requirements and our ways of working.

Work Permit

All foreign employees must adhere to the requirements for obtaining a valid visa and work permit in Vietnam. These requirements are mandated by the Government and may be over and above the mandatory requirements and key selection criteria. Work permit requirements are subject to change. RMIT Vietnam accepts zero tolerance to non-adherence of the immigration laws of Vietnam.