

Teaching Focused Academic

POSITION NUMBER	950416
COLLEGE / DEPARTMENT	First Year College
LOCATION/CAMPUS	The position is currently located at the Footscray Park Campus of the University.
CLASSIFICATION	Teaching Focused Academic – Social Work

OVERALL PURPOSE

Teaching Focused Academic (TFA) refers to a staff member who is principally engaged to teach, lecture, manage, coordinate and/or develop educational programs across the AQF levels.

VU has established a new First Year College (FYC), and rebranded the existing Higher Education Colleges as Discipline based Colleges. The First Year College is based on a new model for education that aims to dramatically improve the quality of first-year student learning, experiences and outcomes. The FYC is structured around the goal of maximising student success, retention and progression, with a truly student and learning-centred approach to everything it does. It starts from a commitment to knowing and understanding VU's distinctive student body, which is highly diverse, increasingly less prepared for higher education study, and prone to high rates of first year attrition. On completion of the first year of study, students are better prepared and are much more successful when they move into 2nd year and beyond within the Discipline Based College. For VU to offer a uniquely successful first year experience to all students, particularly those who have had little experience of academic success previously, the academic staff will work collaboratively in the design, organisation, teaching and continuous review of the curriculum. They will also work collaboratively with their social work colleagues in the Discipline based College to ensure the coherence and continuity of the total study program. The education-focused academic staff will be committed to 'high impact educational practices', involving among other things, greater levels of staff-student interaction and high levels of personalised learning and feedback to students. Academic roles for those with a passion for student learning will range from Teaching Scholars to higher level Teaching and Research Academics (TRA), providing disciplinary leadership, curriculum design and teaching most appropriate to the requirements of our students.

The operations of the First Year College are currently located at the Footscray Park Campus of the University though this position may be relocated to any other existing or future University work location.

ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Victoria University (VU) is a dual-sector (higher education and TAFE) tertiary institution based in Melbourne, Australia. VU has 6 Discipline based colleges and a First Year College. The University has nine campuses in Melbourne's CBD and western region, and a tenth campus in Sydney. It also offers courses at partner institutions throughout Asia. More than 42,861 students, including around 13,500 international students, study VU courses worldwide. VU recently celebrated its 25th anniversary as a university, which also marked its 100 years as an educational institution.

VU's Strategic Plan 2022-2028, presents a bold and distinctive vision that will ensure the University maintains its market position within an increasingly competitive tertiary environment. Importantly, VU's distinctiveness is characterised by the vision and mission in the plan, as follows:

People and Culture use only

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VISION

Victoria University will be open and excellent, creating exceptional value for any student from any background, by guiding them to achieve their career aspirations, and uplifting communities in our heartland and beyond.

MISSION

Through its distinctive approach to curriculum, the student experience, research and knowledge exchange, emphasising engagement with industry and the community, VU will be renowned for:

◆ Education

Providing high quality, engaging, career-based tertiary education at all levels of vocational and higher education with flexible entry and exit points, appropriate pathways, engaging and rigorous curriculum and contemporary delivery, while maintaining rigorous standards and ensuring all students are supported to meet those standards.

◆ Research and Engagement

- ◆ Undertaking high quality and innovative applied and translational research which results in healthier, smarter and sustainable communities in the western region and beyond.
- ◆ Connecting deeply with industry and the community and in turn, enhancing the quality of teaching and learning

MAJOR CHALLENGES / FREEDOM TO ACT

This position reports to and receives broad direction from a **member of the leadership team** and operates within the University policies, procedures and guidelines.

The incumbent will be expected to work collaboratively and independently as a member of the University and to participate in or undertake activities that enhance student learning and engagement and improve the quality, innovation and the evidence-base of teaching in the university.

A key challenge for this position will be meeting the educational needs of the students and providing an appropriate level of support required for students from a range of demographic subgroups, to ensure the University's programs can attract and retain students within a highly competitive tertiary education market.

MAJOR DUTIES PERFORMED

In performing the following duties, the incumbent is required to comply with Quality Assurance policies and procedures, and other relevant legislative requirements applicable to the University. The major duties to be performed are:

- ◆ Design innovative curricula and develop learning materials in collaboration with other colleagues as appropriate
- ◆ Develop and facilitate learning activities online, distributed, face-to-face or in a blended capacity as appropriate, which stimulate and foster student learning and which reflect a command of the discipline and contemporary pedagogic practices.
- ◆ Determine the learning needs of students and provide appropriate teaching and learning environments and support to help students to achieve the intended learning outcomes.
- ◆ Assess learning and provide timely feedback that students can use to inform future assessment tasks.
- ◆ Engage in continuing professional learning and qualifications, if appropriate, in both discipline theory and practice and the teaching of the discipline.
- ◆ Engage in scholarly teaching practice, including the evaluation and continuing improvement of teaching practice.

- ◆ Undertake a range of administrative functions connected with the unit/cluster/course taught, including moderation and assessment of student work.
- ◆ Provide support to external stakeholders and partners through participation in industry based delivery and assessment.
- ◆ Provide support to the course team in the development of curricula and resources.
- ◆ Enhance the overall academic, social and cultural experience of students through:
 - ◆ delivering high quality, contemporary teaching practice
 - ◆ recognising the particular learning needs of first year students and facilitating their transition into university learning
 - ◆ ensuring students from low socio economic backgrounds and other demographic subgroups receive adequate support to participate and experience success in their courses.
- ◆ Contribute to academic service, collegiality and engagement, including efficient management of internal service roles.
- ◆ Contribute to the overall success of the First Year College and the College of Health and Biomedicine (Social Work team) by participating in the administrative and marketing activities of the Colleges and in outreach to the community and/or profession

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential Selection Criteria

- ◆ Minimum qualification – successful completion of a Bachelor Degree in Social Work, with a minimum of five years (FTE) of relevant practice experience in core areas of social work and / or a Post Graduate Degree
- ◆ Eligible for Membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers
- ◆ Experience of higher education teaching in the area of social work
- ◆ An understanding of the Victoria University student body, its needs, and of the philosophy of the First Year College and the College of Health and Biomedicine (Social Work)
- ◆ Evidence of a scholarly approach to teaching practice and evaluation.
- ◆ Knowledge and use of innovative teaching strategies, models or resources to support learning outcomes, including technology enhanced learning and teaching.
- ◆ Capacity to work collaboratively across the First Year College and the College of Health and Biomedicine (Social Work) in curriculum design and review
- ◆ Capacity to work collaboratively with the full range of student support services and co-curricular teams in a student-centred approach to learning.

Desireable

- ◆ PhD or Masters
- ◆ Enrolment in, or completion of, Graduate Certificate in Block Teaching, Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Education or equivalent
- ◆ Demonstrated involvement in community and/or professional bodies, including knowledge of Melbourne's West and its community service network.

Organisational Chart

