

ARC Research Fellow

POSITION NUMBER	965214
COLLEGE / DEPARTMENT	Institute for Health and Sport
LOCATION/CAMPUS	The position is currently located at the Footscray Park Campus of the University.
CLASSIFICATION	Academic Level B

OVERALL PURPOSE

The overall purpose of the Postdoctoral Research Fellow position is to provide academic research excellence in areas of strength and focus in the Institute for Health and Sport.

The incumbent will be responsible for conducting high-quality research, generating research outputs and seeking external research funding. The position will carry out independent research and team research. In addition, the Postdoctoral Research Fellow will supervise postgraduate research students and will be involved with research training and teaching.

The position will be based at Victoria University's IHES facility at Footscray Park but may also require travel to other campuses. Please see details below for major duties of this position.

ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Victoria University has a bold and ambitious new vision and a seven-year strategic plan characterised by five strategic drivers. Victoria University's [Strategic Plan 2022-2028, Start Well, finish brilliantly](#), also commits the University to the bold ambition to be a global leader in dual sector learning and research by 2028.

VU has innovated a new pedagogic and curriculum approach: the VU Block Model. This, along with the VU First Year College, has been one of the leading learning and teaching innovations in the Australian tertiary education sector over the past decade. Our embedded VU Polytechnic is a leading TAFE provider, renowned for its industry collaboration and its digital innovation in delivery. As a result, Doing Dual Differently is one of our five core drivers and points of uniqueness.

At Victoria University, our research is focused on the development and sustained application of ethical knowledge in all its forms, done in partnership and collaboration, to address the challenges of people, places and planet. In 2022, VU launched its [Research and Impact Plan 2023-2028](#) and is one of the top ten sports science universities in the world with more recent, yet equally profound, achievements in health sciences; immunology; green engineering; the circular economy; and First Nations.

STRATEGIC DRIVERS

To achieve our vision, we have identified five Strategic Drivers, with a high-level objective, and the goals to get us to our 2028 target. Our vision is big and ambitious. It is also achievable.

1. Doing Dual Differently
2. Partnering with Principle
3. Maximising Research with Impact
4. Protecting Country
5. A Thriving Place to Study and Work

VISION

To be a global leader in dual sector learning and research by 2028.

PURPOSE

Victoria University emboldens its people to design their future and has a deep commitment to Protecting Country.

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND SPORT

The [Institute for Health and Sport \(iHeS\)](#) is one of two Research Institutes at VU. We take a transformative, future-focussed, “whole-of-University” approach, undertaking research into issues of global significance in Health and Sport.

IHES research is part of the VUs whole-of-university effort to prioritise solutions that are locally anchored or ‘place-based’ to ensure sustainability. IHES research addresses the United Nations Social Development Goals #3 Good Health and Wellbeing; #5 Gender Equality; #10 Reduced Inequalities; #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; and #17 Partnerships. Our research contributes to the Key Thematic Areas in VU Research and Impact of Health, Sport & Wellness; First Nations Knowledge; New Generation Skills and Workforce Impact; Green Research Translation; and New Frontiers in policy, advocacy and justice

The Institute has ~ 315 highly active researchers, comprising 143 staff and 172 (~141 EFTSL) HDR students. We have some of the best equipped sport, biomechanics, exercise science and biochemistry labs in the world.

Research in the Institute for Health and Sport is undertaken through three multi-disciplinary research themes:

- **Sport that Inspires**
- **Movement for Health**
- **Discovering Healthy Futures**

The operations of the **Institute for Health and Sport** and this position are currently located at the **Footscray Park Campus** of the University.

MAJOR CHALLENGES / FREEDOM TO ACT

This position reports to and receives broad direction from **Professor David Bishop, Professorial Research Fellow** and operates within the University policies, procedures and guidelines.

A key challenge of this position will be to carry out independent and team-based research that will involve the development of relations between other relevant researchers, community organisations and industry partners and other government organisations. To further develop research skills, where applicable the incumbent will be required to be involved in research training. Accountability is measured annually in terms of research outputs according to the agreed VU Develop Plan.

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:

1. Undertake quality academic research, typically in collaboration with research students and/or research staff.
2. Publish papers, articles and reports in high-impact academic journals, including journals, and conference proceedings.
3. Assist with supervision of research undergraduate/interns, honours, Masters, and PhD students working on individual or group projects.
4. Prepare and submit external grant applications, and develop external research collaborations and partnerships.
5. Attend conferences, workshops and other professional development activities if deemed relevant by the supervisor.
6. Contribute to the development of the University's research culture, through the promotion, conduct and facilitation of research and publications.
7. Liaise with institute staff, college staff and other research groups internally and externally.
8. Ensure that the work for which they are responsible aligns with the OHS of staff, students, visitors and contractors.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- A PhD in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Exercise Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, or a closely related discipline.
- Demonstrated experience in cell culture techniques relevant to mechanistic molecular biology studies.
- Experience in sample preparation, quality control, and data validation procedures for:
 - Next-Generation Sequencing
 - Proteomic analyses
- Demonstrated training and experience in bioinformatics, including the analysis, interpretation, and integration of large-scale transcriptomic and proteomic datasets.

- Demonstrated ability to lead manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Demonstrated capacity to contribute in the day-to-day supervision, training, and scientific development of PhD students associated with the project.
- Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary research teams.
- Willingness to commit to our values which are:
 - Respect
 - Integrity
 - Excellence

Desirable

- Demonstrated experience working with *in vitro* tissues (e.g., skeletal muscle primary cells or skeletal muscle organoids)
- Demonstrated expertise in several of the following techniques:
 - Western blotting, including subcellular fractionation methodologies
 - Quantitative PCR (qPCR) techniques
 - Mitochondrial respiration analyses
 - Enzyme activity assays relevant to skeletal muscle biology
 - Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) sample preparation and/or analysis
 - Single-cell sequencing or spatial transcriptomics/proteomics
- Experience contributing to competitive grant applications or research funding initiatives.
- Demonstrated ability to mentor junior researchers and contribute to laboratory leadership activities.