

ACADEMIC STAFF POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
POSITION NUMBER:	
COLLEGE/ DEPARTMENT:	Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL) College of Sport and Exercise Science
LOCATION/CAMPUS:	Footscray Park
CLASSIFICATION:	Academic Level B
SUPERVISOR:	Professor Alex Parker Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL)

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 of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL).

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.

ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Victoria University (VU) is a dual sector (higher education and TAFE) tertiary institution based in Melbourne, Australia. VU has seven colleges, each covering a broad discipline of study, seven research institutes and eight research centres. The University has eight campuses in Melbourne's CBD and western region, and a ninth campus in Sydney. It also offers courses at partner institutions throughout Asia. Almost 43,000 students, including around 14,000 international students, study VU courses worldwide. In 2016, VU celebrated its 25th anniversary as a university, which also marked its 100 years as an educational institution.

VU's Strategic Plan, *The University of Opportunity and Success 2016 – 2020*, 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:

VISION

As the University of Opportunity and Success, we will be open and excellent, creating exceptional value for any student from any background and uplifting the communities in which we operate.

MISSION

We will achieve this vision by:

- 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 that 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 West of Melbourne and beyond, and connecting deeply with industry and the community, in turn enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.

COLLEGE OF SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE

The College of Sport and Exercise Science is the critical entity in Victoria University to deliver on the priority strategic objective set in the Victoria University 2012-2016 Strategic Plan: to be world renowned in sport, exercise and active living by 2016. The College of Sport and Exercise Science is also central to Victoria University's aim to be Australia's Sport University, working in collaboration with all other Colleges of the University, where sport encompasses sport, exercise and active living.

The mission of the College of Sport and Exercise Science at Victoria University is to enhance health and quality of life through discovery, dissemination and application of evidence-based knowledge of human movement. This mission will be achieved through sport, exercise and active living, empowering students from diverse countries and cultures, socioeconomic and educational backgrounds, to be successful lifelong learners grow their skills and capabilities for the changing world of work. Students will grow to be confident, creative, ethical and respectful local and global citizens. The College of Sport and Exercise Science focuses its delivery on outstanding undergraduate and graduate teaching, research, service, and enterprise activities delivered by a passionate team of qualified professionals in a truly inspirational environment.

There are five Discipline Groups within the College of Sport and Exercise Science:

- Exercise Physiology/Anatomy
- Clinical/Rehabilitation
- Physical Education/Sport Coaching
- Social and Behavioural Sport Science
- Sport Management

The College of Sport and Exercise Science currently offers ten undergraduate courses, three options of honours study, three taught masters course, multiple masters by research options, and a PhD from a range of topics in sport, exercise science and active living. These courses account for approximately 2138 undergraduate degree students, 83 honours/masters students, and 108 PhD students.

INSTITUTE OF SPORT, EXERCISE AND ACTIVE LIVING

ISEAL is a critical component of Victoria University's Sport and Health strategies, as well as the University research theme of Sport, Health and Active Living. Victoria University is now ranked in the top 2 percent of universities worldwide, in the recent Times Higher Education 2016/2017 World University Rankings (351-400).

ISEAL's Vision is to transform people's lives, community and industry through Sport and Moving for Health research, whilst our Mission is to conduct world-leading research that advances the performance, societal impact and the business of sport, and through physical movement enhance the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

The Institute was established in 2010 and since grown rapidly to include a large critical mass of researchers, comprising more than 240 research-only and academic staff and higher degree by research students. ISEAL currently includes 20 Professors, 18 Associate Professors including 1 Sports Medicine Doctor, 16 Senior Lecturers, 5 Senior Research Fellows, 27 Postdoctoral Research Fellows and 42 Lecturers; there are currently around 108 higher degree by research students in ISEAL, almost all of whom are undertaking PhD studies.

ISEAL is supported by world-class research infrastructure. Research facilities include the \$68.5 million Sport and Exercise Science building at the Footscray Park Campus, unparalleled nationally and internationally significant; as well as the nearby \$52 million clinical research and teaching facility at the Western Centre for Health Research and Education, Sunshine Hospital.

Research at ISEAL

ISEAL addresses two Grand Challenges, which encompass five Research Foci:.

- 1. Sport that Inspires: How can we advance the performance, societal impact and business of sport?**
 - Enhancing Sport Performance
 - Building Sport Capability
 - Sport for Inclusive Communities

- 2. Moving for Health: How can we enhance health and well-being in individuals and communities through physical activity?**
 - Movement for Healthy Communities
 - Movement for Chronic Disease

The ISEAL structure addresses these Grand Challenges through the Research Foci, with the Research Groups as the nucleus and powerhouse. This transformational approach ensures that ISEAL is future- and outward-focussed; facilitates addressing global, big-picture, real-world problems; increases the potential for greater external funding, especially through philanthropic, government and industry sources; facilitates multi- and trans-disciplinary research by reducing silo's; accelerates the timeframe of ISEAL becoming world-leading; thereby ensuring continued ISEAL growth and sustainability.

The operations of the Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL) and this position are currently located at the Footscray Park Campus of the University though this position maybe relocated to any other existing or future University work location.

An Organisational Chart is attached.

MAJOR CHALLENGES/FREEDOM TO ACT

This position reports to and receives broad direction from Professor Alex Parker and Dr Melinda Craike and operates within the University policies, procedures and guidelines.

A key challenge of the position will be to carry out research that will involve the development of relationships with relevant external industry partners and government organisations. The incumbent will be required to undertake supervision of postgraduate research students and be involved in research training. Accountability is measured in terms of research outputs, both qualitatively and quantitatively (publications, speaking engagements and media notices).

MAJOR DUTIES

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:

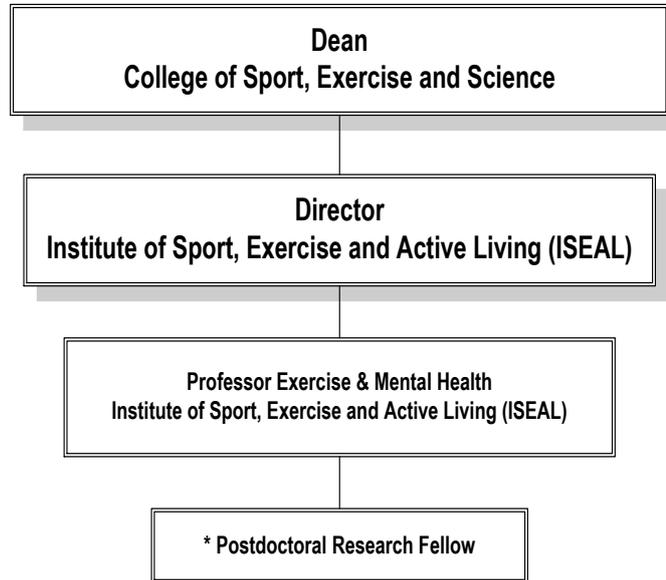
1. Undertake high quality academic research, including applied or contract research and consultancies, typically in collaboration with research associates and/or research staff.
2. Support the research interests and strengths of research associates, assisting them to formulate research programs and methodologies, and access relevant funding sources.
3. Publish papers, articles and reports in a range of academic and industry publications, including journals, monographs and conference proceedings.
4. Contribute to the development of the University's research culture, through the promotion, conduct and facilitation of research and publications.
5. Initiate developments in specified research fields and enhance research directions and priorities in collaboration with academic staff in the Institute of Sport, Exercise and Active Living (ISEAL).
6. Prepare and submit external grant applications, and develop external research collaborations and partnerships.
7. Attend conferences, workshops and other professional development activities.
8. Liaise with college staff and other research groupings internally and externally.
9. Ensure that the work for which they and their staff are responsible is carried out in a manner which safeguards the OHS of staff, students, visitors and contractors.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential:

- Knowledge and Training equivalent to: a PhD qualification or equivalent accreditation and standing in a relevant discipline.
- Demonstrated capacity for undertaking independent and/or team research, including developing, conducting and leading research projects.
- Demonstrated understanding of mental disorders and the role of exercise interventions in preventing and treating mental ill-health.
- Demonstrated strong background and experience in range of research methods and designs, including clinical trials, cross-sectional and cohort studies, meta-analyses and systematic reviews.
- Demonstrated track record of successful research including funded research such as Australian Research Council applications or equivalent international research funding grants.
- A record of quality publications in exercise, physical activity and mental health.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Capacity to work effectively in an interdisciplinary environment and contribute to the work of the research team.
- Willingness to commit to Victoria University's values which are:
 - Values – Access, Excellence, Respect
 - Behaviours – Engagement, Collegiality, Courage

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



*Denotes the position