



Position Description – Research Assistant

Position Details

Position Title:	Research Assistant
College/Portfolio:	College of Design and Social Context
School/Group:	School of Global, Urban and Social Studies
Campus Location:	Based at the City campus but may be required to travel.
Classification:	Academic Level A
Employment Type:	Fixed Term (Research)
Time Fraction:	0.6

RMIT University

RMIT is a multi-sector university of technology, design and enterprise. 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. 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 three main campuses in Melbourne are located in the heart of the City, Brunswick, Bundoora and Point Cook, along with other Victorian locations. There are also two campuses in Vietnam (Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City) and a centre in Barcelona, Spain. RMIT is a truly global university.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-locations-and-facilities>

We are also committed to redefining our relationship in working with, and supporting, Indigenous self-determination. Our goal is to achieve lasting transformation by maturing our values, culture, policy and structures in a way that embeds reconciliation in everything we do. We are changing our ways of knowing, working and being to support sustainable reconciliation and activate a relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff, students and community. Our three campuses in Melbourne (City, Brunswick and Bundoora campuses) are located on the unceded lands of the people of the Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation.

Why work at RMIT University

Our people make everything at the University possible. We encourage new approaches to work and learning, stimulating change to drive positive impact. Find out more about working at RMIT University, what we stand for and why we are an Employer of Choice.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/careers>

We want to attract those who will make a difference. View RMIT's impressive standings in university rankings.

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/facts-figures/reputation-and-rankings>

About the College of Design and Social Context

RMIT's College of Design & Social Context brings together creative and practical study in the fields of design, technology and society. Comprised of nine schools, the College encompasses a wide variety of disciplines of the built environment, education, media & communication, global & social studies and across all fields of art and design. It is this breadth of expertise and the shared commitment to addressing the most urgent challenges and opportunities of our time through interdisciplinary collaboration that gives the College its unique identity.

Our work makes substantive contributions to sustainability and regenerative futures, global and social justice agendas and exploring the nexus of technology and the human experience. We seek to deepen our understanding and offer possible paths forward for society by addressing these issues with imagination, rigour, and practicality. We do this through excellence in education and research that is future-focused, industry-connected and community engaged.

With over 21,000 students in Australia and Vietnam – from undergraduate students to PhD candidates – learning and researching with a team of over 1000 academics, we are dedicated to fostering an environment that advances knowledge and transforms professional practice. Through our highly respected research centres, groups and international partnerships, the College is having an impact globally with agenda-setting research that informs government policy, supports industry innovation and advances creative practice.

The College has a significant presence in Asia and Europe through higher education programs and active research projects. This includes programs at RMIT's Vietnam campus and with partner organisations in Singapore and Hong Kong, and research activity at RMIT Europe, the University's innovation hub in Barcelona.

The College is recognised globally for its standing across numerous fields with Art and Design maintaining its number one spot in Australia and the Asia-Pacific, and 19th globally, in the 2023 QS World Rankings by Subject. Architecture and the Built Environment ranks second in Australia and 25th globally while Communications and Media Studies is ranked fourth in Australia and in the top 50 globally.

For more information see www.rmit.edu.au/dsc

School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (GUSS)

Located in the heart of Melbourne on RMIT's City Campus, the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies is one of RMIT's largest schools. The School's vision is to contribute to a just and sustainable world, and to deliver education, training and research in four areas of focus:

- Criminology, legal and justice studies
- Global studies, languages, translating and interpreting
- Social work, youth work and social policy
- Sustainability and urban planning

We provide academic programs in Higher Education in these four main areas. We are a strongly research active school with research centres of national and international reputation - the Centre for Urban Research and the Social and Global Studies Centre.

With outstanding industry links, strong pathways and excellent research records, most of the School's academic programs are leaders in the market and in high demand. We aim to ensure every student has a transformative experience to prepare them for life and work in the growing professional areas of the future.

For more information, see <http://www.rmit.edu.au/socialhumanities>

About the research project

The position will work on a project funded by NHRA, on Integrated solutions for bushfire-adaptive homes. The project aims to empower residents, so they can make informed decisions when they are designing, building, or retrofitting a home to be bushfire adaptive. These homes are equipped to withstand bushfire impacts, while enhancing the resilience and safety of occupants. To achieve this aim, the project will consider the current state of resident's knowledge, values, desires, and capacities, and consider how these states might be enhanced using policy, practice-based incentives, and other social levers. In pursuing this objective, we will explore the types of behaviours and motivations that residents experience. In addition, we will engage with practitioners (such as fire agencies, architects, and builders) to identify what options are available for incentivising adaptive changes in the context of existing individual and community bushfire preparedness practices.

Position Summary & Key accountabilities

The Research Assistant (RA) will work with research teams in the School of Global Urban and Social Studies and Research Institutes. The RA will undertake research activities in line with the University's research strategy. It is expected that the RA will carry out work with an increasing degree of autonomy as skills and experience develop. The research assistant will work in close collaboration with CSIRO and the stakeholders involved in the project.

The research assistant role includes:

- Literature review of scholarly literature, grey literature and policy documents, including regulatory system, policies, best practices, available technologies, to examine:
 - The strengths, gaps, and opportunities to the implementation of bushfire adaptive homes
 - the role of fire agencies in supporting evidence-based improvements to adaptive housing.
 - the resident journey to achieve bushfire adaptive home.
- Develop survey and interview questions, for relevant stakeholders and practitioners (builders, architects, fire agencies, insurance providers), conduct interviews and analyse that data to establish their attitudes towards risks, technical factors, procedures, and solutions for bushfire-adaptive homes. Potential follow up interview of the practitioners.
- Develop and support a workshop to co-produce interventions to address the identified strengths, gaps and opportunities that are emerging in the community's awareness of bushfire risk reduction, and their willingness to use co-benefit solutions, involving residents and a selection of experts, including fire agencies, and relevant practitioners.
- Ability to conduct research/scholarly activities under limited supervision either independently or as a member of a team including literature review, managing research project within timelines and ensuring compliance with quality and reporting requirements.
- Writing for publication, journal papers or conference presentations and reports, as well as undertaking administration related to the position.

Reporting Line

Reports to: Senior Lecturer in Sustainability and Urban Planning.

Organisational Accountabilities

RMIT University is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff. RMIT and its staff must comply with a range of statutory requirements, including equal opportunity, occupational health and safety, privacy and trade practice. RMIT also expects staff to comply with its policy and procedures, which relate to statutory requirements and our ways of working.

RMIT is committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people in our community. Read about our commitment and child safe practices. <https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-locations-and-facilities/facilities/safety-security/child-safety>.

Appointees are accountable for completing training on these matters and ensuring their knowledge and the knowledge of their staff is up to date.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Evidence of being familiar with or worked with social science research methods, socio-ecological-economic-technical-systems understanding, knowledge co-production, DELPHI method optional but would be beneficial
2. Evidence of research output including publications, conference contributions and/or technical reports in the field.
3. Ability to work autonomously and project manage, whilst displaying a strong commitment to work in a team environment. This includes the demonstrated ability to confidently and effectively work with colleagues, project team leaders, and industry partners, as well as demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and effectively manage varying workloads and respond to changing priorities as required.
4. Demonstrated high level written and verbal communication skills.
5. Desirable: Knowledge of housing, disasters, natural hazards, multi-hazards or bushfire mitigations.

Qualifications

Mandatory: Qualification in the relevant discipline area and have commenced or near completion of PhD.

Note: Appointment to this position is subject to passing a 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.

Endorsed:	Signature:	Approved:	Signature:
	Name:		Name:
	Title:		Title:
	Date:		Date: