

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Assoc Research Fellow, Plants and climate mitigation futures

POSITION DETAILS

Position Title	Associate Research Fellow, Plants and climate mitigation futures
Classification	Academic Level A
Position Number	TBA
School/Office	Institute for Culture and Society
Division	Provost

POSITION PURPOSE

The Associate Research Fellow contributes to the successful delivery of the ARC Linkage Project "Plants and climate mitigation futures: Museums, communities, knowledges" through research, project coordination and stakeholder engagement activities.

The position supports the implementation of an interdisciplinary research program that advances Indigenous knowledge alliances and community engagement initiatives facilitated by museums to co generate innovative climate plant mitigation concepts and strategies in Australia and Vanuatu.

The role contributes to research activities, data collection and analysis, stakeholder engagement, project coordination and the dissemination of research outcomes. The project supports Indigenous led climate agendas around cultural burning and green development, develops new plant sciences and environmental humanities concepts, and seeks to generate scholarly, policy and community outcomes that contribute to the regeneration of Country and climate action.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. **Coordinate day to day project activities** under the direction of the Chief Investigator, including the organisation of research materials, workshops, briefings, symposia, meetings, travel arrangements and liaison with CIs, PIs, partner organisations and ICS professional staff.
2. **Undertake data collection, analysis and interpretation** in accordance with approved project methodologies, ethics requirements and project timelines.
3. **Develop and prepare research materials and content** to support the project's climate plant human research methods and related research activities.

4. **Contribute to archival research and analysis** of ecological assessment material relating to bushfires and cultural burning, working collaboratively with the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, the Indigenous Stakeholder Group, CIs, PIs and Traditional Custodians.
5. **Contribute to focus groups, stakeholder engagement activities and policy related outputs**, including research that informs the development and reframing of policy.
6. **Contribute to the dissemination and translation of research findings** through multi-authored scholarly publications including articles and books, reports, presentations, policy outputs and other agreed project deliverables.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

1. A Doctorate or demonstrated equivalent research experience in a relevant social science and/or humanities area, such as Indigenous studies, museum studies, climate change research, material culture studies or posthumanism relevant to the research project.
2. Demonstrated experience and knowledge of research project administration and coordination, including project planning, implementation and delivery within agreed deadlines.
3. Demonstrated scholarly writing skills and experience contributing to research outputs for a variety of audiences, including refereed journal articles, book chapters, books, reports and/or creative methods of research, analysis or dissemination.
4. Well developed oral and interpersonal communication skills, with experience working in cross cultural and interdisciplinary research teams and the ability to communicate effectively with a broad range of stakeholders and research collaborators, including through presentations at academic conferences, industry events and other public forums.
5. Demonstrated experience in engaged research, including independent and collaborative fieldwork.
6. Demonstrated experience in qualitative and quantitative research methods, including data collection and analysis.
Effective stakeholder engagement, negotiation and interpersonal skills, including the ability to contribute to project presentations, interviews, meetings and workshops involving research participants, collaborators and external stakeholders

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- **This position reports to:** Chief Investigator/Lead Researcher
- **This position supervises:** Nil
- **Key internal relationships:**
 - Chief Investigator/Lead Researcher and other Chief Investigators and Project Investigators associated with the Project
 - Institute Director, Institute Manager, Institute researchers, Higher Degree Research candidates, Research Assistants and professional staff within the Institute for Culture and Society, including providing day to day guidance and coordination to Research Assistants in relation to project activities, as required
 - Other academic and professional staff across Western Sydney University
- **Key external relationships:**
 - Project partner organisations, including the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan (ABGMA) and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta)
 - Indigenous Stakeholder Group and Traditional Custodians associated with the Project
 - Community organisations, research collaborators and partner institutions

CHALLENGES

- Assisting in planning, establishing and following project design.
- Prioritising conflicting project demands in accordance with strict and demanding timelines.
- Managing multiple stakeholders' demands.
- Working autonomously, within the broad guidelines of the position, with an interdisciplinary team.

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS

The University expects that all employees are aware of, and comply with legislation and Western's policies and procedures relevant to the position, including but not limited to:

- Code of Conduct
- Work Health and Safety and Wellbeing Management System
- Enterprise Agreement or Award
- Anti-discrimination principles, Equal Employment Opportunity and staff and student equity.

Approved by: People and Culture Partner

Date: 22 July 2026