

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Chancellors Indigenous Postdoctoral Research Fellow



POSITION DETAILS

Position Title	Chancellors Indigenous Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Classification	Level B
Position Number	TBC
School/Office	TBC
Division	TBC

This is an identified position and applicants must be an Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander person. Being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person is a genuine occupational qualification as authorised under Section 14(D) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977 NSW.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Chancellor's Indigenous Postdoctoral Research Fellow will undertake high-quality research that contributes to Western Sydney University's strategic priorities, including the *Indigenous Strategy 2026–2030*, the *Indigenous Research Strategy 2024–2028: Sharing Knowledges in Good Spirit*, and the *WESTERN 2030* vision. This role is designed to strengthen Indigenous research leadership and foster impactful scholarship that benefits both the academy and the wider community.

The Fellow will have the opportunity to advance their research career within a broad discipline of their choosing, which may include but is not limited to Indigenous Studies. Research can align with the University's Global Challenges:

- Responding to Digital Futures
- Contributing to Fairer Societies
- Fostering Healthy Communities
- Supporting a Sustainable Future
- Creating Liveable Environments
- Leading Future Industries

Through rigorous project development, ethical research practices, and dissemination of findings across traditional and non-traditional outputs, the Fellow will contribute to building knowledge, strengthening partnerships, and supporting the next generation of Indigenous researchers. Prospective applicants will need to identify a WSU [researcher](#) to supervise the research project and to provide a letter of support.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

As the Chancellor's Indigenous Postdoctoral Research Fellow, you will lead impactful research that advances the University's strategic goals. This position is designed to strengthen Indigenous research leadership and contribute to impactful scholarship that benefits both the academy and the wider community. Responsibilities will include:

Research Development and Coordination

- Plan, develop and manage a research project by conducting literature reviews, building collaborative partnerships with academics, community, and industry stakeholders, and preparing to secure internal and external grants (e.g., WSU ECR grants, ARC, NHMRC).
- Coordinate project operations including administration, financial management, stakeholder engagement to ensure research impact, and supervision of research assistants and HDR students, where appropriate.

Data Collection and Analysis

- Prepare an ethics application if required, collect and manage data ethically using relevant methodologies (for example, archival, qualitative, quantitative, creative), apply advanced analytical techniques, ensure compliance with data governance standards, and undertake travel for data collection when required.

Research Dissemination and Impact

- Publish high-impact research outputs across traditional (journal articles, book chapters), industry/community (reports), and/or non-traditional formats (creative, translational).
- Where relevant, engage in knowledge translation to ensure research benefits Indigenous communities and informs policy and practice.

Policy, Compliance, and Governance

- Maintain up-to-date knowledge of internal and national research codes and ethical guidelines (e.g., WSU Research Code of Practice, NHMRC National Statement).
- Ensure all projects comply with WSU policy and relevant legislation.

Professional Development and Leadership

- Commit to ongoing capacity-building and training opportunities within and outside the University.
- Develop supervisory expertise to progress to a Category 1 HDR supervisor.

Commitment to Indigenous Education and Research at Western

- The Fellow will be expected to attend WSU Indigenous events and to contribute to Indigenous researcher development through participation in Indigenous research and HDR events.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

1. This is an identified position and applicants must be an Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander person. Being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person is a genuine occupational qualification as authorised under Section 14(D) of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act, 1977 NSW.
2. A PhD or evidence of submission in a relevant field.
3. Demonstrated research experience in higher education or equivalent settings.
4. Capacity to develop and deliver a research project, including project management, writing literature reviews and data collection and analysis.
5. Capacity to prepare quality academic peer-reviewed publications and research outputs.
6. Excellent oral and written communication skills; excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work collegially, effectively, and ethically as an individual or in a team.
7. Expertise with a range of discipline specific, and/or creative research methodologies and methods.

8. Excellent organisational, administrative and time management skills, including the capacity to pay attention to detail, multi-task and meet deadlines.
9. Ability to use advanced databases and information systems and apply new technologies relevant to project delivery.
10. Capacity to attract external funding to WSU in the form of industry partnerships and government and philanthropic grants.
11. Completion of a project proposal as outlined in the accompanying brochure.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

This position reports to both their research supervisor and the relevant faculty or institute where the fellowship is based.

Success in the role will be dependent on developing and maintaining positive relationships with:

- Academic and administrative Faculty/School/Institute staff
- Faculty Associate Dean Indigenous
- Key community representatives and industry stakeholders that the fellowship may consult, liaise, seek advice, provide/receive input to, or negotiate services with etc.
- Division of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership.

CHALLENGES

- Community consultation, relationship-building, and co-design move at community pace, which may not align with fellowship milestones.
- Navigating competing priorities across multiple stakeholder groups while maintaining service quality.
- Navigating Indigenous Intellectual Property Protocols and multiple ethics layers ensuring compliance.

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: **Professor Michelle Trudgett**
Date: **20/03/2026**