

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Associate Professor, Environmental Futures

POSITION DETAILS

Position Title	Associate Professor, Environmental Futures
Classification	ACADEMIC LEVEL D
Position Number	7016149
School/Office	Institute for Culture and Society
Division	Provost

POSITION PURPOSE

Western Sydney University has been named the number 1 university in the world for four consecutive years in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. The Institute for Culture and Society champions collaborative engaged research in the humanities and social sciences and studies transformations in culture, society, technology and environment in the context of contemporary global change. The ICS strives to do world-leading research that has a tangible positive effect on a diversity of communities, end-users and partners.

The ICS sits on the traditional lands and waters of the Burramattagal people of the Dharug Nation, who have been stewards and caretakers of these territories since time immemorial, in what today is referred to as Greater Western Sydney, one of the most diverse cultural communities in the world and home to the largest number of Indigenous Australians in the country.

Located in Parramatta, the ICS is at the forefront of cutting-edge areas in research, engagement, and societal challenges where the ICS has helped catalyse and drive crucial and genuinely world-leading work in social sciences, humanities, and creative arts. Institute members work in a broad range of fields including cultural studies, sociology, human geography, anthropology, environmental humanities, science and technology studies, history, communication and media studies, museum and heritage studies, disability studies, queer studies, and urban studies. The Institute combines senior staff members, mid and early career researchers, together with School-based members at various stages in their research careers. The ICS is also home to two strategic research centres: the Young and Resilient Research Centre and the Urban Transformations Research Centre.

This new appointment is key for institution building within and beyond Western, and to meet the outputs and deliverables in the University's Western 2030 strategy including: *unlocking global impact, driving research and innovation, leading Indigenous acceleration, securing sustainability* and

strengthening student success.

The Associate Professor will undertake field-leading original research with a focus on major bids and Category 2 and Category 3 income generation; will contribute to the strategic development of the Institute's overall research agenda; and will contribute to public and scholarly debates about future ecological and social challenges. Areas of research, engagement, postgraduate supervision and teaching may include the transformative links between environment and society; between environmental histories and futures; the political economies of energy and transitions; environmental resource management; politics of waste; envionring infrastructures; environmental policy and law; climate action and environmental justice.

The appointee will bring their expertise to furthering the development of one or more of the following ICS Research Program areas (outlined at:

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/ics/research/research_programs)

- [**Automated Worlds**](#)
- [**Borders and Migration**](#)
- [**Environment and Technology**](#)
- [**Queer Cultures**](#)
- [**Urban Futures**](#)

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

The Associate Professor will:

1. **Undertake original research**, making independent or original contributions to the ICS' engaged research effort and industry partnerships, with the production of high-quality publications and other outputs, including policy briefings and Non-Traditional research Outputs (NTROs).
2. **Submit research grant submissions** to external funding bodies including national competitive grants, such as the ARC, with a particular focus on Australian Category 2, 3 and 4 research.
3. **Manage major research projects** including financial management and, where appropriate, leadership of teams; undertake research-related administrative functions, such as attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the organisational unit to which the research is connected; and play a significant role in planning and committee work.
4. **Successfully attract, supervise, and mentor postgraduate research students** and ensure that they complete their programs in a timely manner and publish the outcomes in peer reviewed journals and other relevant venues. Successfully attract industry co-funding for higher degree research students.
5. **Contribute, as appropriate, to university courses and curricula across the three Faculties**, (SABEL, ESC and Health) including undergraduate and postgraduate courses, in collaboration with colleagues from Schools; and develop and deliver lectures to undergraduate students with the objectives of building research findings into curricula and of attracting students to undertake research within the Institute.
6. **Undertake professional activities**, including, subject to availability of funds, participation in, and organisation of, conferences and seminars in the employee's field of expertise.
7. **Supervise** where appropriate the research of early career Employees and conduct other supervision and mentorship as assigned.

8. **Participate in the development of short courses** for industry, community, and other sectors where necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

1. A relevant PhD in a relevant field of research, including urban geography, environmental sociology, environmental studies, science and technology studies, environmental humanities, and sustainability.
1. An outstanding, established interdisciplinary research career, with demonstrated expertise, and record of publication with high quality outlets, in one or more of the relevant Fields of Research, including environment and culture, environmental anthropology, environmental geography, environment policy, environmental politics, environmental sociology, environmental communication and media, and First Nations environmental knowledges.
2. Broad understanding of the challenges facing the University research, governance and education; a demonstrated capacity and interest in public engagement outside academia; and a capacity to develop close working relationships with a variety of industry, policy and research funding bodies, along with a track record of leadership in securing major research grants awards, including attracting external industry research and HDR scholarship funding.
3. A demonstrated interest in the ICS culture of collective research that spans spatial scales, engaging with partners across university, industry, government, and cultural sectors particularly in Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific.
4. Demonstrated record of relevant research leadership and experience including experience working within the constraints of funded research projects; management and leadership of collaborative research projects and excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to work collegially with academic colleagues and to work effectively in a team; excellent oral and written communication skills across a range of audiences, including engaged research with a wide range of sectors and stakeholders.
5. Experience in successful supervision of higher degree research students, and effective teaching and curriculum development.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

This position reports to the ICS Director or delegate.

This position may be assigned supervisory responsibilities.

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

1. Director, Institute for Culture & Society
2. Chief Investigator(s) and other members of research teams
3. Academic colleagues in the discipline, Institute, and University
4. Professional and support colleagues within the Institute and University
5. Key external stakeholders including professional staff of project partner organisations; other researchers working on projects, professional associations, and funding bodies

CHALLENGES

A Level D (Associate Professor) academic is expected to make significant contributions to the research program of the Institute and University, including through major publications, documentable research impact, and active supervision of postgraduate research students. An academic at this level is also expected to play a role in scholarship, teaching and professional activities, including university governance as the University sector research environment undergoes constant change.

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:

Date: