

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Sociology and Social Policy



POSITION DETAILS

Position Title	Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Sociology and Social Policy
Classification	Academic Level A
Position Number	7016334
School/Office	School of Social Sciences (SoSS)
Division	Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts, Business, Education and Law (SABEL)

POSITION PURPOSE

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will develop and lead sociology and social policy research that is concerned with equity issues, social justice and social change. Postdoctoral Research Fellow will contribute to UN Sustainable Development Goals research achievements and achieving the Western 2030 Strategy including: unlocking global impact, driving research, leading Indigenous acceleration, securing sustainability and strengthening student success.

The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will undertake original research, to contribute to the School's research agenda, preferably with alignment to our thematic strengths, including Sexualities and Genders Research, Challenging Racism, and/or Critical Pedagogies Research.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- 1. Undertake original research;** carry out independent research, executed according to a two-year plan, which makes an original contribution to the School's research portfolio. This program of research may include collaborations with others and must produce high quality sociology publications and impact activities.
- 2. Submit research grant applications;** independently or with a team, to external competitive funding bodies with an emphasis on Categories 2, 3 and 4 research.
- 3. Occasional contributions to SoSS teaching;** which may include guest lectures, tutorials and marking.
- 4. Supervise and/or mentor postgraduate students;** contribute to supervision panels, where appropriate, and/or SoSS postgraduate development activities such as seminars and workshops.

5. **Contribute to SoSS research culture and reputation;** organise, deliver and attend workshops and seminars; engage in peer-to-peer mentoring; participate in SoSS Strategic Research Collaborations; promote SoSS research domestically and internationally.
6. **Undertake administrative duties:** participate in School and University meetings and other activities as required; undertake professional development opportunities.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

1. A PhD in sociology or related field.
2. An emerging research career, with demonstrable contributions to sociology and social policy, including high quality publications and funded projects, preferably including activities that align with our thematic strengths, including Sexualities and Genders Research, Challenging Racism, and/or Critical Pedagogies Research.
3. 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.
4. Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills.
5. Commitment to harmonious teamwork and collegiality in work and professional settings.
6. Strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to influence and establish effective working relationships.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- **This position reports to:** Head of Discipline, Anthropology and Sociology
- **This position supervises:** N/A
- **Key internal relationships:**
 - Dean, Social Sciences
 - Director of Research, Social Sciences
 - Head of Discipline, Sociology, Anthropology and Youth Work
 - Chief Investigator(s) and other members of research teams
 - Academic colleagues in the discipline, School, and University
 - Professional and support colleagues within the School and University
- **Key external relationships:**
 - Professional staff of project partner organisations
 - Other researchers working on projects
 - Professional associations
 - Funding bodies

CHALLENGES

- Making a significant contribution to the School's research program, through high quality publications, funding applications, impact activities and culture-building.
- Engaging in scholarly, research, or professional development activities that enhance disciplinary expertise and academic reputation.
- Internal and external stakeholder engagement, including cross-faculty collaboration and liaison with regulatory bodies, funding agencies, and industry partners.

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: Lead People and Culture Partner

Date: 13/05/2026