

Position Description
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IRU Vice-Chancellors' Fellow

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Position No:

Department: Innovative Research Universities (IRU)/Vice Chancellor's Office

School:

Campus/Location: The position can be based at any IRU member

Classification: Academic Level D

Employment Type: Fixed Term (until December 2019)

Position Supervisor: Executive Director, Innovative Research Universities  
Number: 50032131

Other Benefits: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jobs/working/benefits>

Further information about:

IRU - <http://www.iru.edu.au/>

La Trobe University - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/about>

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## **IRU Vice-Chancellors' Fellow**

Innovative Research Universities (IRU) will focus on ensuring future student and graduate success, across the student lifecycle, through an innovative collaborative project led by the IRU Vice-Chancellors' Fellow. The Project will guide members to lead Australian practice in this area by identifying existing and potential good practice across our seven universities and leading implementation of those practices across the member universities. The Fellowship will deepen collaboration between members, supporting innovative and creative ways of sharing our experience of what works.

The position will report to the Executive Director of the Innovative Research Universities who will provide regular supervisory support with additional overview of the fellowship through the VC Fellow Reference Group comprised of one Vice-Chancellor (Professor John Dewar) and seven university members (Deputy Vice-Chancellors Academic or equivalent) that meets 3 times per year.

The Fellow will report to each IRU Vice-Chancellors meeting, which occur every six weeks to two months.

The Fellow will work closely with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor or equivalent responsible for academic matters and the heads of learning and teaching in each member university to advance the project.

### **Position Context**

This position is required to influence and enhance student and graduate success outcomes across participating IRU members, identifying, promoting and assisting implementation of creative approaches to meeting the likely future needs of graduates.

### **Duties:**

- Design, implement and evaluate scalable, outcomes-focused priority projects in alignment with the key focus areas identified by the VC Fellow Reference Group.
- Work closely with partner Universities to implement the project plan.
- Coordinate cross-institutional working groups to support collaboration across the network and the dissemination of fellowship outcomes.
- Provide support and advice to member institutions with respect to student and graduate success initiatives as related to the themes of the fellowship.
- Challenge thinking among IRU members about future options for learning and teaching and the implications of these for student and graduate success, including greater expectations for graduates to be entrepreneurial and innovative.
- Collaborate with member institutions to coordinate and/or participate in institutional symposia relevant to the themes of the fellowship.
- To oversee the National Innovation Case Study Collection and continue to source contributions to the collection.
- Link to international developments relevant to the project, including maintaining the IRU relationship with the University Innovative Alliance in the United States of America.
- Support and maintain compliance with relevant legislation and University policies and procedures, including equity and health & safety and exhibit good practice in relation to them.
- Support and maintain fair, ethical and professional work practices in accordance with the University Code of Conduct.

## Key Selection Criteria

- A PhD and distinctive scholarly record.
- Demonstrated original and innovative contributions in the student and graduate success (or related) field.
- Demonstrated effectiveness and leadership in the conduct and management of practical, scalable and outcomes-focussed projects.
- Highly developed interpersonal skills, evidenced by the proven ability to foster and develop beneficial relationships through liaising and working with others in achieving successful outcomes.

## Other relevant information:

- The position description is indicative of the current expectation of the role and subject to changes to IRU goals and priorities, activities or focus of the job.
- It is a requirement of the position that the Fellow will travel to each member university twice per year.
- The Fellow will have the flexibility to choose an IRU member as their primary campus. This may influence which IRU member is the employing university.

## Essential Compliance Requirements

To hold this position the occupant must:

- hold, or be willing to undertake and pass, a Victorian Working With Children Check or relevant check for the state of employment; and
- take personal accountability to comply with all University policies, procedures and legislative or regulatory obligations; including but not limited to TEQSA and the Higher Education Threshold Standards.

## Cultural Qualities

IRU supports the La Trobe cultural qualities and similar statements by other member universities:

- We are **Connected**: We connect to the world outside — the students and communities we serve, both locally and globally.
- We are **Innovative**: We tackle the big issues of our time to transform the lives of our students and society.
- We are **Accountable**: We strive for excellence in everything we do. We hold each other and ourselves to account, and work to the highest standard.
- We **Care**: We care about what we do and why we do it. We believe in the power of education and research to transform lives and global society. We care about being the difference in the lives of our students and communities.

For Human Resource Use Only

Initials:            Date:

## The IRU Vice-Chancellors' Fellow

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) have a distinctive commitment to broadening participation in higher education, providing a life-long education base for our graduates.

Since July 2016, the IRU Vice Chancellors' Fellow has lead the Innovative Research Universities to address creatively student and graduate success through the research, design and implementation at scale, of strategic projects targeting employability and learning analytics. In appointing a second Fellow new areas of activity to improve student and graduate success will be identified.

The IRU Vice Chancellors' Fellowship entails:

- identifying existing good practice across the seven universities and elsewhere,
- challenging thinking among IRU members about future options for learning and teaching and the implications of these for student and graduate success,
- planning the sharing and scaling-up of that best practice among members as a starting point for further innovation, and
- leading the implementation of scalable outcomes focused projects supporting student and graduate success.

The IRU Vice-Chancellors' Fellowship will continue to generate truly original and inventive models that set the IRU apart for its boldness in fulfilling the inclusiveness mission of IRU universities. Similarly, the work investigates and assesses relevant activities from other sectors and explore how these might be applied to improve student and graduate success.

The Fellow will continue to foster close ties with the University Innovation Alliance (UIA), a consortium of 11 US public Universities. The IRU has been granted 'observer' status with the UIA.

### Concept

#### Stage One

The IRU Vice Chancellors' Fellow should assess performance, capability and opportunities within the IRU network in defined priority areas, to identify:

- key elements to supporting student transition success and long term employability;
- evidence which each institution currently applies to assess student outcomes, assessing gaps in data collection and measurement across the IRU network;
- current areas of strength and innovation in priority areas within the IRU network;
- key focus areas for sharing practice based on the assessment of current gaps and areas of strengths; and
- the actions required to share and scale up application of the identified practices.

#### Stage Two

Concurrently with Stage One, the IRU Fellow should explore creative opportunities beyond the work currently undertaken within the IRU network:

- investigate and document innovative approaches to student and graduate success being deployed overseas in comparable institutions;
- challenge thinking within IRU members about future options for learning and teaching and the implications of these for student and graduate success.

### Stage Three

Based on the outcomes of Stage One and Two the Fellow is to:

- develop a plan to introduce and scale up across the IRU network the practices identified during Stage One and Two;
- lead the implementation; and
- develop criteria to evaluate project outcomes and continuous improvement across the network.

In doing so the Fellow must:

- foster deep collaboration across the IRU network
- ensure approaches are relevant for the breadth of students;
- enhance the IRU's leading role in education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
- enhance the IRU's leading role in education delivered from regional Australia

### **Who we are looking for**

The Fellowship is open to senior academic staff seeking the opportunity to establish themselves as a leader in their field.

Undertaking a two year appointment, you will have a passion for improving access to higher education. You will have an adaptable skill-set that will help you to deliver creative solutions to big problems. You should enjoy collaboration, excel in using evidence to support innovation for students from all backgrounds, and have exceptional negotiation and leadership skills.

Your understanding of the needs of future graduates in the Australian education sector, combined with your energy and passion for educational access, will help you to make a real difference by creating a new culture as the IRU Vice-Chancellors' Fellow.

You will work closely with IRU Vice-Chancellors and Deputy Vice-Chancellors during the Fellowship, significantly developing your policy research and program delivery skills as a basis for future senior roles.

10 January 2018