2025 Mary Lugton Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme

Information Webinar

22 April 2024
The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.
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Welcome and Introduction

Prof Kate Smith-Miles

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability)
Mary Lugton Postdoctoral Fellowships

Scheme overview
Background – the life and bequest of Mary Lugton

• Mary Lugton worked in the Baillieu Library for 43 years (1946-1989)
• Senior Reference Librarian
• University Bibliographer and published historian
Mary Lugton Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme Overview

- Competitive 2-year funding program for current staff or PhD graduates from the University of Melbourne
- Supports Early Career Researchers with high research potential and aligned with Faculty priorities
- Enhances competitiveness for external grants
- In 2025, open to researchers in medicine and arts conservation
Mary Lugton Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme Supports

- 2 years of salary commencing at level A.6
- Up to $25,000 research project costs
- Academic mentoring at the Department, School and/or Faculty level
- Access to suite of Researcher Development Unit support programs
Mary Lugton Postdoctoral Fellowships

Setting the institutional and scheme context
Advancing Melbourne (2020-2030)

Five intersecting themes will represent our key focus areas over the next decade:

- **PLACE**: Embrace our place in Australia and the world, partnering in the future of Melbourne as a thriving and sustainable global city.

- **COMMUNITY**: A vibrant, diverse and inclusive community, and a destination of choice for talented students and staff.

- **EDUCATION**: Students at the heart of the University, renowned for their outstanding knowledge, skills and societal influence.

- **DISCOVERY**: At the leading edge of discovery, understanding and impact through research.

- **GLOBAL**: Lead, convene and collaborate through strategic partnerships on a global scale.
Advancing Melbourne Discovery
Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact

Principles of Research at Melbourne

- Research excellence and impact are our primary indicators of success
- Academic freedom is paramount. Academics determine their own research path and are supported by opportunities from faculty and institutional strategy
- Basic research is a critical foundation for discovery and understanding
- We work with collaborators and partners to amplify the global impact of our research
- Research is conducted to the highest ethical standards with integrity and openness. This value is embedded in every aspect of our work, including in our choices of research partners and collaborators
- Research is integrated with the education of all our students, fostering of a spirit of enquiry and ongoing renewal of research ideas
Advancing Melbourne Discovery
Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact

Research Capability
Research Infrastructure
Research Collaboration
Research Quality
Interdisciplinary Research
Research Translation and Impact
Researcher Development

• Research Capability
  — Early Career Researcher Grants
  — Postdoctoral Fellowships (McKenzie, Puzey, Mary Lugton, etc.)
  — Research Impetus Grants
  — ARC/NHMRC Fellowship salary gap supports
  — Researcher Development Unit (RDU)

• Research Quality
  — Mock ARC-style panel reviews from ExpERT panel
  — National Interest Test (NIT) statement workshops
  — Strategic targeted support (e.g. grant writing assistance)
Advancing Melbourne Discovery
Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact
Our platforms enable access to cutting-edge infrastructure and technical expertise, which drives innovation, promotes multi-disciplinary approaches and fosters collaboration with industry and other partners.
**Research Precincts**

*Fisherman’s Bend*- Engineering and design innovation  
*Melbourne Arts Precinct*- Cultural and creative partnerships  
*Melbourne City Council*- Sustainable Cities Partnership  
*Melbourne Biomedical Precinct*- AIID, ACMD, Burnet move, CSL bioincubator, BioCurate  
*Melbourne Connect*- digital innovation, industry links and Cremorne digital hub  
*Dookie*- NorVic Food and drought hub
Melbourne Interdisciplinary Research Institutes

Ambitious ideas. Collaboration. Local and global expertise. Solving the big challenges together.

Melbourne Disability Institute
Melbourne Energy Institute
Melbourne Social Equity Institute
Melbourne Climate Futures
Indigenous Knowledge Institute
Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness

Affordable Housing
Anti-Racism
Bioinspiration
Creativity and Wellbeing
Future Food
Indonesia Democracy
Wildfire Futures
Work Futures

Ageing
Children’s Lives
Computational Biology
Disability
Economic and Social Participation
Indigenous Materials
Statelessness

Many other affiliated Research Institutes (e.g. Doherty, Bio21, WEHI, Peter Mac, St Vincents, etc.)
Advancing Melbourne Discovery
Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact
Research Impact at Melbourne

“The University defines research impact as the effect on, change or benefit to scholarly knowledge and the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.”

- Our Research Impact Framework (2021) builds and supports a culture of research impact
  - The framework was designed to be broad and inclusive, and to address the needs of diverse disciplines and approaches.
  - It considers all career stages and encompasses different pathways to impact.
Our Research Impact "fan" diagram

Scholarly & Creative

The fundamental purpose of research is to generate new scholarly knowledge that underpins further research, innovation and impact.
# Facets of research impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facet</th>
<th>Aim</th>
<th>What is valued</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarly and Creative</td>
<td>Advance knowledge and ways of knowing</td>
<td>Peer judgement, prestige, rigour, expertise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy, Politics and Law</td>
<td>Improve politics, policy and governance</td>
<td>Policy attention, recommendations, improved policy outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media and Culture</td>
<td>Facilitate public debate, perceptions and culture</td>
<td>Accessibility, broad reach, visibility, creativity and performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Processes and Practice</td>
<td>Improve processes and practice</td>
<td>Recommendations and guidance, improved practices, processes, implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Products and Enterprises</td>
<td>Facilitate economic resource generation</td>
<td>Contribution to economic system</td>
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Mary Lugton Postdoctoral Fellowships

Scheme guidelines, forms and application process
Eligibility: To be eligible, applicants must:

- have been awarded a PhD on or after 17 May 2019
- be employees (ongoing, fixed-term, or casual) of the University of Melbourne within the last 12 months of the application date or a PhD graduate from the University of Melbourne
- be an active art conservation or medicine researcher
- Seek Academic Endorsement (more on this later)
- Applicants must not have been awarded a competitively funded research fellowship from any institution since the award of their PhD
- ask two referees to submit the written testimonial via email to res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au
- submit a fully compliant application form to the Themis Grants Submission Workbench
Request an Eligibility Exemption if you:

✓ Were awarded your PhD before 17 May 2019 and have demonstrable career interruptions, or

✓ Are ineligible based on other eligibility criteria but have other demonstrable exceptional circumstances.

✓ Eligibility Exemption Requests (EER) are in part B-1 of the application form

✓ Applicants should be able to demonstrate that their research career has been significantly constrained or interrupted by circumstances such as serious or chronic illness, childbearing or child-rearing, primary caregiving for a family member, or working in a role where research was not the primary focus of the employment.
Academic Contact and Endorsement Declaration

Early step – confirm your Academic Contact at the University of Melbourne

• Use your existing networks, or the University’s ‘Find an Expert’ search tool, to find academics in your field.

• Assist with completing and signing the Endorsement Declaration along with HOD/ADR (this form is due as part of the application)

• It is the Academic Contact’s responsibility to email the completed Endorsement Declaration (with HOD/HOS signature) to RIC by the application deadline.

• Remain as fellow’s regular point of contact and either provide informal mentoring or assist the fellow in finding a mentor.
Application form

The Application Form consists of 7 parts:

• Part A: Administrative Summary
• Part B: Education and Appointment Details
• Part B-1: Eligibility Exemption Request (EER) (only if relevant)
• Part C: Project Description (7 pages, uploaded as pdf – template available on scheme webpage)
• Part D: Proposed Budget
• Part E: Track Record and Strategic Alignment
• Part F: Support of Academic Contact and Head of Dept/School (see Endorsement Declaration form on the website)
• Part G: Reference Letters
Eligibility and Compliance

✓ Applications will be ineligible if:

✓ They fall outside the eligibility window
✓ Fail to meet page limits or formatting specifications outlined in the guidelines and/or application form
✓ Are missing endorsement declarations
✓ Are missing HoD Certifications or Themis Submissions
2025 ROUND

KEY DATES

**Scheme Opens**
Release of Scheme Guidelines and application portal.

**Scheme Closes**
Applications due 3pm via SmartyGrants. Attach application to Themis Grants Submission Workbench

**Selection Processes**
Eligibility & compliance checks. Eligible applications are ranked by specialist committees. Central committee meets to decide

**Outcomes**
Outcomes Announced. Applicants must provide all requested acceptance details to ensure projects begin from January 2025

- 8 April 2024
- 17 May 2024
- August 2024
- September 2024
Selection Process

• Full Applications are assessed on a competitive basis by a Committee of senior University academics from a diverse range of disciplines, who were not involved in application ranking.

• Chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability).

• Awards are made on merit perceived by the central committee, considering faculty rankings as input

• Recommends fellowship awards to the DVCR – announced in approx. September 2024.
Selection Criteria

- **Proposed Research Project (40%)**
  - Significance of the research aims
  - Quality of proposal
  - Degree of innovation and novelty
  - Feasibility of the project;
  - Benefits of anticipated project outcomes.

- **Track Record (40%)**
  - The research experience and achievements
  - Relationship between the research proposed and your capability to deliver
  - Future research leadership capacity in terms of your research track record and vision, and capabilities to build collaborative networks

- **Strategic alignment with University and faculty research priorities (20%)**
  - Alignment of the research, and researcher, to strengthen institutional and faculty research priorities;
  - Extent to which the host faculty/School will be able to support the research
  - Extent to which the proposed research will foster broader collaboration and linkages
Tips for success

- Use plain, succinct, compelling language (road test this with friends!)
- Demonstrate academic excellence and achievement, relative to opportunity
- Show how your research is unique, fills a demonstrable gap (that you can convincingly fill)
- Show strategic alignment (look at Advancing Melbourne 2030, and your faculty’s research strategy, consider links with UoM/precinct research infrastructure, or Hallmark Research Initiatives and interdisciplinary centres)
- Show how you will build research connections in the University, and externally
- Articulate a well-considered research program that has the potential to attract further funding.
- Show your leadership capabilities in research (e.g. GR supervision, professional societies, conferences).
- Articulate your proposed impact. Research objectives have specific, purposeful, and measurable outcomes (distinguish ‘outcomes’ from ‘outputs’).
For more information contact:
Researcher Development Schemes team in RIC
res-devschemes@unimelb.edu.au