

Terms of Reference MDHS ‘Peeneeyt Thanampool’ Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Fellowship

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellowship offers a career pathway for MDHS Indigenous PhD graduates (or near completion). The fellowship aims to support the next generation of Indigenous researchers who will actively contribute to health research and/or address critical health issues facing Indigenous communities. The Fellows will contribute to and enrich the Faculty’s diverse scholarly community both locally and globally and build an Indigenous research community that will generate Indigenous informed and led research.

The Fellowship works toward understanding, redefining and enabling Indigenous futures through research and mentorship. Recipients will represent talented MDHS graduating Indigenous PhD scholars across all of the Faculty’s academic disciplines and conduct health research, research that will inform and influence critical practice and policy areas and work with Aboriginal communities to improving Indigenous health. The Fellowship will contribute to Indigenous participation in a global evidence-based narrative of Indigenous revitalization, development and adaptation.

Objective

The key objective of the three-year MDHS Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellowship is to develop and support the health research career of aspiring Indigenous academics. The successful candidate will be supported to achieve their proposed research goals with an experienced research mentor and advisory team relevant to the field of expertise. They will also be supported to consider an appropriate research academic trajectory which may include a Category 1 grant or equivalent. To further support international research pathways and networks, the fellowship will also include the opportunity to work overseas.

Eligibility

1. The MDHS Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellowship is an Identified Position in accordance with the University's Identified Position Procedure and only Indigenous Australians are eligible to apply.
2. Applicants must have undertaken, or be currently enrolled in, a PhD in the FMDHS at the University of Melbourne.
3. Applicants must have submitted, or intend to submit, their PhD within the 2023-24 financial year. The PhD thesis must be submitted prior to starting the Fellowship.

4. Application submitted in full: completed Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellowship Application and Research Plan form, CV, PhD supervisor letter (see application form for details).

Selection Criteria

- A PhD (awarded or near completion). Applicants must have submitted, or intend to submit, their PhD within the 2023-24 financial year.
- A considered and well-developed research plan in line with the applicant's developing research profile.
- Demonstrated research excellence evidenced by PhD supervisor letter, publications, conference and seminar presentations and contribution to grant applications, if any.
- Strong evidence of ability and desire to build an academic career trajectory.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team to achieve project goals and meet agreed deadlines as appropriate.
- Willingness to teach in the context of your research.

Expectation

Successful applicants must commence their programme of research in 2024, unless otherwise agreed to by the selection panel. The Fellowship can only begin after the PhD thesis has been submitted.

Successful applicants will be expected to participate in annual career discussions as part of the MDHS Careers @ Melbourne Framework and will be covered by the terms and conditions of their employment contract.

Selection Process

- The faculty will appoint a selection panel, to oversee the selection process as per a Level B appointment.
- Applicants will be invited to submit an application and associated documents and will be shortlisted by the selection panel against the selection and eligibility criteria.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview during which applicants will have three minutes to present their postdoctoral research plan for the next three years, using no more than one slide, followed by a discussion about the proposed research and career aspirations.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be contacted via phone by the Chair of the selection panel and provided feedback.
- Successful awardees will be announced at a Dean's function.

Operation

The MDHS Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded on a full-time basis, (1FTE) unless otherwise agreed (flexible work arrangements are available).

Fellows will be paid at academic level B:1 per annum (pro rata)

Fellowships will include a one-off stipend of \$10,000 to be expended on professional development and/or training relevant to the research. An allowance to support overseas work will also be available.

Reporting

Fellows will be required to provide a mid and final report on the progress of their fellowship.