

Position description

Position: **Interim Dean of Research**
Reports to: Principal
Start Date: From 15th August 2023
Hours: 0.6 to 1.0 FTE (dependant on candidate and potential scope of work)
Duration: Initial period of nine months

Whitley College

Whitley College is the Baptist College of Victoria and an agency of the Baptist Union. Our staff team is committed to providing high-quality theological education and formation for all of those committed to the life and mission of the churches and the place of faith in a rapidly changing society.

Whitley is an innovative, research-led provider of theological education to individuals preparing for leadership and service in the churches and wider society. Our programs are accredited through the University of Divinity, guaranteeing the academic quality of our comprehensive range of diploma and degree awards, including PhD and Professional doctorates (DPP)

Whitley's Strategic Plan has established a vibrant and exciting trajectory for our research culture, second to none across the University with a community of over twenty HDR students at any given moment.

University of Divinity

Whitley College is one of the twelve colleges of the University of Divinity and part of its collegiate structure. The University of Divinity promotes the highest standards of scholarship in theology, philosophy, ministry, professional supervision, and spiritual care. Through scholarship, the University aims to address the issues of the contemporary world. Founded in 1910 as the Melbourne College of Divinity, the University has a long history of pursuing and achieving these aims.

Primary objectives

Whitley College seeks to sustain a healthy research culture and program, as it relates to the strategic goals of the University and the College.

The College's former Dean of Research will assume the role of Interim Principal from the 5th August 2023 and we plan to contract an Interim Dean of Research to serve until a permanent Principal is appointed. At that time, the Interim Dean of Research's contract will be concluded, and a permanent position will be advertised.

The Interim Dean of Research will undertake an Executive Leadership role within the life of the College and maintain a high-profile commitment to the management and innovation of the research agenda of the College. Whitley is determined to remain on the front line of research-led scholarship and academic enquiry and continue to build on its enviable reputation as a College of the University with a demonstrably robust and well-resourced contribution to the exchange of knowledge and wisdom in the fields of theology, spirituality, and professional ministry practice.

Consequently, Whitley is seeking a person to fulfil the position of Interim Dean of Research. The Interim Dean of Research is to be responsible for the development and leadership of the research agenda of Whitley College and its current and future research initiatives and activities.

Key responsibilities

1. Provide strategic leadership in maintaining a coherent research agenda and culture in relation to the mission of Whitley College and that of its institutional partners and stakeholders.
2. Work collaboratively with the Interim Principal, Executive, staff researchers, and HDR students of the College to maintain the College's strategic research profile.
3. Coordinate research, and collaborate with other researchers and groups, in line with the University of Divinity's regulations and policies.
4. Manage and maintain a high-quality environment for HDR students and their supervisors, including attention to welfare, compliance, remuneration, and reporting mechanisms.
5. Provide and oversee training for Whitley's research community.
6. Provide support for research grant applications by members of Whitley's research community and identify opportunities for College-led applications for University Collaborative Large Grants as well as opportunities for research grants and commissions from partners, stakeholders, and grant-awarding bodies in order to sustain a long-term research program.

Key skills & qualifications

1. Earned doctorate from an Australian or international institution.
2. Strong evidence of research experience and peer reviewed output in his/her own discipline.
3. Proven experience in guiding project research and its administration.
4. Managerial skills in order to link strategic goals and research goals and implement these coherently in a process.
5. A good understanding of the research system in Australian higher education and especially of those procedures regarding research in the University of Divinity.

Key characteristics

1. A person of faith and a lively commitment to the mission of Baptist churches in a variety of ministerial, societal, and workplace environments;
2. Commitment to the mission and vision of Whitley College;
3. Skilled and transparent communicator and thoughtful negotiator with good listening skills and sensitivity to diverse perspectives and stakeholders of the College;
4. A strong commitment to visionary leadership in research and collegial administration in theological education.

How to Apply:

For further information, please contact Rev Associate Professor Darrell Jackson:
djackson@whitley.edu.au

To submit an application, please forward a cover letter with your resume (must include two referees of former employers) to whitley@whitley.edu.au.

Applications close at 5:00pm on Friday 18th August