

STANDARD TEACHING AND RESEARCH POSITION DESCRIPTION



Position	Post-Doctoral Fellow
Level/ Classification	ACLEB
Reports to	Professor Soil Microbiology
Division	Food Futures Institute
College	Research & Innovation

Position Purpose

This position sits in the Centre for Sustainable Farming Systems (within the Food Futures Institute) and works to develop new methods for assessing the transformation of biopolymers into biomass and/or biogas using isotope labelling methods.

This position aims to investigate biopolymers and bioplastics developed for food packaging and the agricultural sectors. The aim of this project is to use ¹⁴C labelled techniques to quantify the degradation of biopolymers under terrestrial conditions to determine the fate of the polymer. The project will require benchmarking of the developed methods against relevant Australian and International standards for biodegradation and composting.

The Post-Doctoral Fellow will contribute to Murdoch's strategic focus on major contemporary global challenges in food and agriculture. The appointee is expected to be an active researcher through publication, income generation and Higher Degree by Research (HRD) student completions at a rate commensurate to the level of appointment. The position will therefore strengthen Murdoch University's reputation and performance in the rankings and research assessments process.

About Murdoch University

Murdoch University is a young and dynamic university with a foundational commitment to the environment, social justice and inclusion, and making education accessible to more people. Founded as Western Australia's second university in 1974, today, Murdoch has more than 21,000 students and 1,700 staff across campuses in Perth, Singapore and Dubai. With more than 90,000 Alumni, Murdoch graduates can be found all over the world, making a positive difference.

Our Strategy – Ngala Kwop Bididi. Building a brighter future, together – guides the University's direction and reaffirms our shared purpose to change lives and society for the better through accessible education and research.

The Strategy is focused on three key themes:

Sustainability: Be a leading university in education, teaching and translational research in sustainability.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Build a welcoming, diverse and inclusive community.

First Nations: Become the University of first choice for First Nations peoples.

Murdoch is also committed to building engagement with our local community, State, nation, and global society with a track-record in creating strong partnerships with business, government and industry.

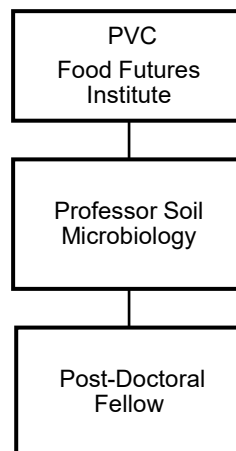
About the Work Area

Murdoch University is one of Australia's seven Innovative Research Universities with a strong reputation for translational science with a focus on achieving 'step- change' solutions to real-world problems.

The Centre for Sustainable Farming Systems (CSFS) is located at Murdoch University and unites scientific and industry expertise in microbiology, soil biology, molecular biology, synthetic biology, biochemical engineering, advanced manufacturing, product life-cycle assessment and circular waste economy.

Murdoch University is collaborating with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and industry partners to find innovative solutions to the development of bioplastics for agricultural and food applications.

Reporting Relationships



Key Responsibilities / Duties

1. Contribute to research, individually and as a member of a team, and produce quality research publications, journal articles, books or chapters, and other outputs.
2. Secure research grant funding in line with discipline expectations, individually and as a member of a team. This includes from industry, business, government or community partners.
3. Build and maintain partnerships, collaborations and networks with the project partners, relevant research bodies, service providers and growers, and other industry organisations linked with the project.

4. Further develop a scholarly research profile and professional expertise relevant to the profession or discipline
5. Engage with, and contribute to the Institute, the University, the profession and the discipline.
6. Participate in the University's Academic Contribution Development Review (ACDR).
7. Undertake such other duties as determined by the Supervisor.

Selection Criteria

Essential

1. Completion of a relevant PhD and proven experience in an area relevant to the appointment.
2. Understanding of and experience using ^{14}C labelling techniques for environmental monitoring including holding an appropriate and current Australian license to handle radioactive substances.
3. Demonstrated ability to work under broad direction only, exercise initiative in undertaking responsibilities and work effectively as a team member.
4. Demonstrated ability to engage in high quality independent research.
5. Demonstrated capacity to generate research funding (either independently or as part of a research team).
6. Demonstrated experience in research or scholarly activities, which have resulted in publications in refereed journals, books or other demonstrated scholarly activities.
7. Well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to work effectively as a member of an interdisciplinary and collegial team.
8. Demonstrated high level of organisation, time and workload management and skills, including the ability to prioritise workload to meet deadlines.
9. Demonstrated high levels of written and oral communication skills in English.

Desirable

1. Knowledge of marine analytical chemistry, including analysis of dissolved organic matter, persistent organic contaminants and microplastics.
2. Demonstrated capacity for industry engagement, communication and outreach.
3. Demonstrated capacity to work independently.

Work Requirements

1. Ability to travel to remote sites and meetings when required.
2. Ability to work outside of normal office hours when required.
3. Australian permanent residency or possession of a valid visa with work entitlement in Australia.
4. Possession of a current C Class Western Australian driver's licence (or ability to obtain licence).

Probationary Review

This position may be subject to a probationary period, during which time the academic staff member is required to meet set probationary objectives and pass a probationary review. Probationary objectives are set following appointment to the position and confirmed at the first Academic Contribution Development Review (ACDR).

General Obligations

While at work, an employee must:

- take reasonable care for their own health and safety and ensure that their acts or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons;
- report incidents, injuries and hazards;
- comply with any reasonable instruction that is given by Murdoch University; and
- comply with Murdoch University policies and procedures.

Academic Career Framework

Murdoch University's Academic Career Framework provides a transparent, equitable and consistent approach to probation and promotion as well as outcome and workload expectations. Please refer to the Murdoch University Academic Career Framework for performance criteria and expectations for all academic positions.

Guiding Principles and Values / Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

Our Values

- Authenticity
- Integrity
- Respect
- Inclusivity
- Openness

Our Principles

- Act with justice, respect and responsible care.
- Be collegiate and respectful of other points of view.
- Protect academic freedom.
- Be agile, flexible and resilient.
- Make decisions at the most appropriate level.
- Be transparent in decision-making and with information.
- Adopt common approaches to common tasks.
- Be careful stewards of our resources.

All staff will comply with the University's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and demonstrate a commitment to its Equity, Diversity and Safety principles and the general capabilities of personal effectiveness, working collaboratively and demonstrating a focus on results.

All Staff complete a Development Review Annually. A Commencing Development Review should be completed within 3 months of commencement.

We acknowledge that Murdoch University is situated on the lands of the Whadjuk and Binjareb Noongar people. We pay our respects to their enduring and dynamic culture and the leadership of Noongar elders past and present. The boodjar (country) on which Murdoch University is located has, for thousands of years, been a place of learning. We at Murdoch University are proud to continue this long tradition.