

Position description

Greater together 

Position title:	Research Data Specialist
Institute/School/Centre/ Directorate/VCO:	Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation
Campus:	Mt Helen Campus. (Greenhill Enterprise Centre)
Classification:	Within the HEW Level 9 range
Time fraction:	Full-time
Employment mode:	Fixed-term employment
Reason for fixed term:	Specific task or project
Probation period:	This appointment is offered subject to the successful completion of a probationary period.
Further information from:	Distinguished Professor Helen Thompson Director, Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation Telephone: 0417 059 659 Email: h.thompson@federation.edu.au
Recruitment number:	JR101158

Position summary

The Research Data Specialist (Dataspaces) will lead the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) National Dataspaces program, working closely with partners and researchers to interpret, leverage and progress the Dataspaces paradigm. The role will ensure ARDC remains the national leader in Dataspaces expertise, maximising the value from this model for the Australian research systems and for research-centric collaborations.

The position will contribute to ARDC's Strategic Pillar programs, supporting delivery to research, public and private sectors. The Research Data Specialist (Dataspaces) will provide subject matter expertise and specialist capabilities to guide the design, development, deployment and operation of digital infrastructure solutions aligned with Dataspaces principles and best practice.

The Research Data Specialist (Dataspaces) will represent the ARDC and partners within national and international Dataspaces communities, ensuring Australia's research data ecosystem is effectively represented and is directly benefiting from emerging developments in this paradigm.

The position requires works in collaboration with ARDC Strategic Pillars and Business Units and working closely with geographically distributed teams supporting cohesive, coordinated and high-quality delivery.

Portfolio

The Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) is Australia's peak infrastructure for research data, funded by the Australian Commonwealth Government through the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy

(NCRIS). At the ARDC, we're accelerating Australian research and innovation by driving excellence in the creation, analysis and retention of high-quality data assets. We partner with the research community and industry to build leading-edge digital research infrastructure.

The ARDC strategy puts the researcher at the centre. Our purpose is to provide Australian researchers with competitive advantage through data. This is reflected in the matrix structure of the organisation, which groups staff into Business Units (Outreach, National Coordination, Services and Operations), and Strategic Pillars.

The ARDC is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace. The ARDC seeks to foster an organisational culture that understands the value of individual differences and embraces and promotes treating all people with respect, dignity and equity. This is supported by the ARDC's organisational values: Ambition, Focus, Collaboration, Flexibility, Transparency.

The Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI) at Federation University Australia, located at the Ballarat Technology Park, Mt Helen is a national and international leader in data interoperability, data federation, spatial mapping and digital transformation. CeRDI applies advanced eResearch methodologies to drive practice change through partnerships with industry, government and academia, and has an established reputation for delivering innovative digital solutions that support research and community outcomes.

Background

At Federation University, we are driven to make a real difference to the lives of every student, and to the communities we serve.

We are one of Australia's oldest universities, known today for our modern approach to teaching and learning. For 150 years, we have been reaching out to new communities, steadily building a generation of independent thinkers united in the knowledge that they are greater together.

Across our University and TAFE campuses in Ballarat, Berwick, Gippsland, and the Wimmera, we deliver world-class education and facilities. With the largest network of campuses across Victoria, we are uniquely positioned to provide pathways from vocational education and skills training at Federation TAFE through to higher education.

To be successful at Federation University you must be willing to enthusiastically embrace the University's ambition as expressed in the 2021–2025 University Strategic Plan and share the University's values of:

INCLUSION, we celebrate our diversity, particularly valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, knowledge and perspectives.

INNOVATION, we are agile and responsive to emerging opportunities.

EXCELLENCE, we act with integrity and take responsibility for achieving high standards.

EMPOWERMENT, we create a supportive environment to take informed risks in pursuit of success.

COLLABORATION, we establish genuine partnerships built on shared goals.

Key responsibilities

1. Lead ARDC's national-scale Dataspaces program, developing policies, strategies and initiatives, to ensure the successful implementation of program goals within assigned budget and resource allocations.
2. Provide expert technical knowledge and expertise, support and liaison to the portfolio of projects in the Dataspaces program.
3. Identify and manage the Dataspaces program and related programs in the ARDC's Strategic Pillars and Business Units, including undertaking complex, significant and high level creative planning for cross-program activities.
4. Initiate, lead and maintain strong partnerships with key stakeholders; represent and promote ARDC's interests externally to industry, government, professional bodies and the wider international community, establish collaboration opportunities and promulgate new opportunities.
5. Conceptualise, formulate and lead engagement opportunities, coordinating, managing and implementing activities with selected partners and stakeholders, and ensuring effective tracking of the impact of ARDC investment.
6. Develop and implement innovative solutions to problems and provide specialist advice to key stakeholders to

ensure a more effective and sustainable research data ecosystem.

7. Oversee program resources, including budget planning, monitoring and reporting, to ensure effective stewardship and demonstrable value from ARDC investment.
8. Conceptualise, develop and review national Dataspaces policies, standards and frameworks, and lead their implementation across affected ARDC business units and partner organisations.
9. Lead cross-functional teams and external partner working groups to deliver program outcomes, providing matrix leadership without direct line management.
10. Provide corporate-level strategic advice to ARDC leadership and partners, integrating internal policies and external requirements into program design and delivery.
11. Perform other duties as consistent with the classification of this position.
12. Reflect and embed the University's strategic plan, and operational purpose, priorities, and goals.
13. Embed effective risk management practices to ensure continuous service delivery. Participate in training and exercises to remain prepared for potential disruptions.
14. Undertaking the responsibilities of the position adhering to:
 - the Staff Code of Conduct, Child Safe Code of Conduct, and Conflict of Interest Policy and Procedure;
 - Equal Opportunity and anti-discrimination legislation and requirements;
 - the requirements for the inclusion of people with disabilities in work and study;
 - Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation and requirements; and
 - Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) legislation.

Level of supervision and responsibility

The Research Data Specialist (Dataspaces) works under the broad direction of the Director, CeRDI and in close collaboration with the Manager Expertise within the ARDC National Coordination Business Unit.

The Research Data Specialist (Dataspaces) will work with a considerable degree of autonomy, and is accountable for significant program outcomes and resources.

While the role has no direct reports, it leads cross-functional project teams and external stakeholder groups to achieve objectives.

Position and organisational relationships

The Research Data Specialist (Dataspaces) will develop collaborative working relationships across the CeRDI and the ARDC, ensuring alignment in strategic direction, program delivery and knowledge exchange. Externally, the role will engage with partners across the Australian and International research data landscape and broader digital research infrastructure ecosystem ensuring. Through these relationships, the position will ensure clear and effective communication of ARDC strategic initiatives, technical programs and Dataspaces developments, whilst bringing external insights and global best practice back into ARDC and CeRDI to strengthen national leadership in Dataspaces.

Key selection criteria

Applicants must demonstrate they are able to undertake the inherent responsibilities of the position as contained in the position description and are able to meet the following key selection criteria:

Training and qualifications

1. Completion of:
 - Postgraduate qualifications and extensive relevant experience; or
 - Extensive management experience and proven management expertise; or
 - Equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.

2. Hold a valid Employer Working with Children Check (WWCC) or hold a current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT).

Experience, knowledge and attributes

3. High level planning and organisational skills, with experience in designing and delivering large programs with multiple stakeholders and projects.
4. Excellent relationship management and consulting skills, including the ability to interact, influence and negotiate with a variety of stakeholders such as researchers, government representatives and industry partners.
5. Specialist knowledge in an area relevant to national digital research infrastructure or a related discipline. Experience with data spaces and the International Data Spaces Association (IDSA) along with experience working in industry with commercial-in-confidence data is desirable.
6. Strong analytical skills and demonstrated ability to apply these; for example in analysing systems, services, workflows or collaborations, and in preparing recommendations related to these.
7. Outstanding planning and organisational skills, with experience in establishing priorities, allocating and managing resources and meeting deadlines.
8. Proven capacity to conceptualise, develop and review major policies and to lead programs involving major change that impact multiple areas of an organisation.
9. Demonstrated ability to provide strategic support and advice within complex organisational structures, integrating internal and external policy requirements.
10. Demonstrated working knowledge and application of the Child Safety Standards.
11. Demonstrated knowledge and application of appropriate behaviours when engaging with children, including children with a disability and from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The University reserves the right to invite applications and to make no appointment.

It is not the intention of the position description to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position but to highlight the most important aspects of the position. The aspects mentioned above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.