

## Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Social Resilience and Adaptation to Wildland Fire

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<b>College/Division</b>	College of Science and Engineering
<b>School/Section</b>	School of Natural Science/Fire Centre
<b>Location</b>	Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart
<b>Classification</b>	Level B
<b>Reporting line</b>	Reports to Professor, Pyrogeography and Fire Science
<b>Date</b>	2023

### Position Summary

The University of Tasmania is building a vision of a place-based University with a mission to enhance the intellectual, economic, social and culture future of Tasmania, and from Tasmania, contribute to the world in areas of distinctive advantage. The University recognises that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ as well as creating a people-centred University that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

We are seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the [Fire Centre](#) in the discipline of Biological Sciences at the [School of Natural Sciences](#) which is part of the [College of Sciences and Engineering](#). The position is also linked to the Environmental Health Group in the at the [Menzies Institute for Medical Research](#) (Menzies), part of the [College of Health and Medicine](#).

The Fire Centre enables cutting edge transdisciplinary research, increasingly based around a fire laboratory, that involves close engagement with a range of stakeholders involved in bushfire and smoke pollution mitigation and management. The Discipline of Biological Sciences at UTAS is a highly supportive and scientifically excellent environment ranked as 'well above world standard' (ERA 5) for Ecology, Plant Biology, Ecological Applications, and Ecological Science and Management. Menzies is one of Australia's leading health and medical research institutes and is recognised worldwide for its research excellence. Menzies' mission is to perform internationally significant medical research leading to healthier, longer and better lives for all Tasmanians. Research takes a bench-to-bedside and disease prevention approach that is aimed at improving patient care and



clinical outcomes for the community by translating knowledge into clinical and policy actions and through the commercial application of discoveries.

The postdoctoral Research Fellow will work with the team of pyrogeographic researchers in the Fire Centre, that is under the direction of Professor David Bowman an ARC Laureate Fellow. Prof Bowman's research program is using empirical, multi-scale landscape and placed based studies to detect land-cover changes in response to fire, assess plant and ecosystem flammability, and develop effective community bushfire adaptation pathways. This research is also supported by [Natural Hazards Research Australia](#), Australia's national centre for natural hazard resilience and disaster risk reduction. The Postdoctoral Research Fellow will also be part of an NHMRC Australia-wide Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL) Network. HEAL aims to catalyse research, knowledge exchange and translation into policy and practice that will bring measurable improvements to our health, the Australian health system, and the environment. The Menzies Institute for Medical Research is co-leading the bushfires, air pollution, and extreme events research theme within the HEAL network, and the postdoctoral fellow will also conduct research to support this theme, and work to support wider research translation and an emerging Tasmanian community of practice in environmental health with a focus on bushfire adaptation.

**We are an inclusive workplace committed to 'working from the strength that diversity brings' reflected in our Statement of Values. We are dedicated to attracting, retaining and developing our people and are committed to inclusive principles. We celebrate the range of diverse assets that gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age and life course bring.**

**Applications are encouraged from all sectors of the community. Tell us how we can make this job work for you.**

### **What You'll Do**

- Make an effective and sustained contribution to the University in achieving its strategic objectives and fulfilling its operational responsibilities.
- Undertake high-quality research and contribute to the successful supervision of research higher degree students as part of a large team tasked to develop sustainable pathways on the wildland-urban interface, including gardens, fuel treatments and community bushfire



adaptation capacity building.

- Contribute to the wider activities of the Fire Centre, HEAL network, including education, outreach and networking.
- Contribute to the development of a Tasmanian community of practice in environmental health with a focus on bushfires adaptation and the development of short courses for creating and maintaining bushfire neighbourhoods and gardens.
- Contribute to the development and maintenance of productive and effective links inside the University and locally and nationally with NHRA, HEAL and other relevant interdisciplinary domains and the wider community.
- Comply with the UTAS Framework for Responsible Conduct of Research, The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, the ICH GCP Guidelines, the Privacy Act, and relevant research ethics and sponsor requirements.
- Undertake other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

### **What We're Looking For (success criteria)**

- A PhD or equivalent in a relevant field.
- Strong research record as demonstrated by quality publications, presentations at conferences and other measures of professional esteem (grants, prizes, fellowships).
- A high level of experience and proficiency in applied qualitative and quantitative social science methods including experience managing research projects across a range of study designs including community-wide surveys, focus groups and ability to design, execute and interpret statistical analyses of survey data.
- Understanding of landscape fire or other natural hazards, and their effects on human health highly desirable.
- Experience working with biophysical scientists to achieve transdisciplinary research outputs.
- Demonstrated expertise in the management of research projects, including ethics and governance applications, participant recruitment, survey development, logistics and management of datasets and reporting.



- Ability to build and maintain links with stakeholders and the wider community.
- Experience in development and delivery educational material for community education, communities of practice and professionals.
- Ability to co-supervise higher degree students.
- Ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines.
- Excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills.

### University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania is an institution with an enduring commitment to our state and community, and a strong global outlook. We are committed to enhancing the intellectual, economic, social and cultural future of Tasmania. Our [Strategic Direction](#) strongly reflects the University community's voice that our University must be place based but globally connected as well as regionally networked and designed to deliver quality access to higher education for the whole State.

We believe that from our unique position here in Tasmania we can impact the world through the contributions of our staff, students and graduates. We recognise that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ, as well as creating a university that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

Check out more here:

<https://www.utas.edu.au/jobs>

<https://www.utas.edu.au/careers/our-people-values-and-behaviours>

*The intention of this position description is to highlight the most important aspects, rather than to limit the scope or accountabilities of this role. Duties above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.*

