

Position description

Department of Environment and Natural Sciences, Faculty of
Engineering, Science and Technology
The Maldives National University



School of Geography, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Faculty of Science
The University of Melbourne

Research Assistant – Future Islands: Catalysing Solutions to Climate Change in Low-Lying Islands

TOTAL SALARY PACKAGE	18,000MVR per month
WORKING HOURS	48 Hours a week (8 hours per day 6 days a week) Official working hours as per University official working hours
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	One Year (Contract can be extended for the project duration based on the performance)

Position Summary

This position is the result of a collaboration between the Maldives National University (MNU) and the University of Melbourne (UniMelb) as part of the project “Future Islands: Catalysing Solutions to Climate Change in Low-Lying Islands.” The project seeks to document changes in the environment in Maldivian islands as observed by people in the last few years, and understand how hopeful they are about the future. Through qualitative and quantitative data collection, the study seeks to evaluate what are the things and values people in the Maldives would like to preserve for future generations, and what are the best ways to do so through climate change adaptation and development projects.

Key responsibilities

You are expected to significantly contribute towards the research effort of the team in three ways:

- 1) Undertaking data collection in different locations across the Maldives.
- 2) Assist in managing the partnership between MNU and the University of Melbourne (UoM), and future partnerships with other international and national stakeholders.

Responsibilities include:

- Organize and attend annual and biannual planning and review meetings in Male between academics and staff members at MNU and the University of Melbourne
- Liaise and work collaboratively with research partners and members of the research team in MNU and UoM
- Manage the partnership between MNU and UoM, including the day-to-day running of administrative tasks, organising workshops, classes and seminars; and arrange meetings between international partners
- Establish new partnerships at the national level (e.g. between MNU and Local Island Councils, Women's Development Committees, NGOs, etc.) and actively manage them
- Undergo training with members of the research team
- Participate in extensive field trips to collect data and broker partnerships, involving:
 - o Planning trips and liaising with local authorities and NGOs, arranging transport, accommodation and other logistics, and collaborating with the research team in the design of research methods;
 - o Identify and interview key informants
 - o Undertake data collection (both with other team members and independently);
 - o Gather qualitative data on events, development, and adaptation projects (past, ongoing and future) both at the island and atoll levels, as well as nationally;
 - o Assist researchers in Translating materials from English to Divehi.
- Perform other tasks as requested by the research team.