

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Professor of Professional Practice School of Design

Reports to:	Head of the School of Design
Division:	Science, Engineering and Computing
Tenure:	Three-year contract, renewable by mutual agreement
Location:	Hamilton
Direct reports:	None
Date:	November 2024

Vision

We will

- Deliver a world-class education and research portfolio
- Provide a full and dynamic university experience which is distinctive in character
- Pursue strong international linkages to advance knowledge

The over-arching themes of this *Vision* are:

- Excellence
- Distinctiveness
- International Connectedness

Values

Ko te mana o Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato ka herea ki tō tātou:

- Tū ngātahi me te Māori
- Mahi pono
- Whakanui i ngā huarahi hou
- Whakarewa i te hiringa i te mahara

The University of Waikato places a high value on:

- Partnership with Māori, with communities and with industry
- Acting with integrity
- Celebrating diversity
- Promoting creativity

1. POSITION PURPOSE

- To use industry experience and expertise to inform and enrich the Design curriculum and thereby enhance the educational experience of students.
- To provide creative leadership in the development of the University's programme in Design, adding insights from creative professional practice to the Design curriculum.
- To promote industry and community collaboration.

Professorial Professional Fellows are appointed as Professor of the University, normally on 0.2 FTE, and with specific responsibilities for student and industry engagement.

2. FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Internal:

Responsible for:

- Teaching and engagement with students in the School of Design including in an interdisciplinary Design Lab.
- Working constructively with the Head of the School of Design, including on the content of the curriculum in Design and the employability of Design graduates.
- Building strong collegial relationships with staff in Design and in cognate Schools of the University.

External:

Responsible for:

- Identifying links and opportunities for engagement with industry for the benefit of the University's Design Programme.
- Representing the University at industry fora and conferences.

3. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Professor of Professional Practice in Design

- Provide leadership in thinking about Design Programmes, and in ways to communicate design thinking and creative design concepts and activities to as large number of students as possible.
- Bring experience of the application of creative design concepts, and design thinking, in a wide range of applications and environments.
- Contribute to a Design Lab that will provide students with an opportunity to implement design thinking for interdisciplinary issues, and promote the conceptualisation and communication of ideas through innovative images, installations and devices blending aesthetics, practicality and functionality.

General

- Take all practicable steps to maintain and develop a safe and healthy work environment for staff and to continually improve both systems and practices to achieve positive outcomes.
- Responsible for ensuring compliance with University policies/procedures and legislative requirements e.g. good employer obligations and equal employment opportunity.
- Undertake ad hoc projects or additional portfolio responsibilities or act with such delegated authority as the University may provide from time to time.

Any other duties as required that are consistent with the position held, other than in exceptional circumstances such as rehabilitation after injury or sickness.

NOTE: Staff have an annual Objectives, Development and Reflection (ODR) meeting with their manager. New staff attend such a meeting approximately three months after taking up their appointment.

4. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Professor of Professional Practice will be performing satisfactorily when:

- High quality teaching and learning is in place.
- Innovative and creative contributions to the Design Programme result in increasing student enrolments and promote the employability of Waikato Design students.
- A record of research and professional practice is maintained, consistent with the expectations of a Professor in a research-intensive university.
- University policies/procedures and legislative requirements e.g. good employer obligations and equal employment opportunity are complied with, and the highest standard or professionalism is maintained in contact with students, colleagues and external stakeholders.
- Key performance objectives and ad hoc projects or portfolio responsibilities agreed with the University are satisfactorily achieved.
- Safe and healthy work practices are followed that comply with University policies and procedures, relevant work standards and statutory obligations.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Essential

- A PhD in Design or a closely related field, or an equivalent combination of tertiary training and professional experience (such as partnership in a professional services firm).

SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE and EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Experience in the teaching of some aspect of Design.
- Demonstrated industry links in a field relevant to Design.
- Experience of the management of people, particularly in an academic or professional services environment.
- Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
- An ability to develop, initiate and implement programmes of activity.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Commitment to equal opportunity and to the University's partnership with Māori as intended by the Treaty of Waitangi. Demonstrated awareness of Māori and Pacific cultures.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- High levels of creativity, and a commitment to applying creative skills to practical problems.
- Self-motivation, leadership, the ability to take initiative and a pro-active approach.
- Excellent verbal and interpersonal communication skills.
- Ability to think independently and demonstrated ability to contribute and operate effectively in a team environment.
- High levels of professionalism when dealing with staff, students, external agencies and communities.
- Capacity to accept responsibility and the flexibility to handle difficult situations.
- Recognition of the need to respect the confidentiality of information about students and staff.
- Consultative, inclusive and adaptable to successfully engage with a diverse range of stakeholders and at all levels of the organisation.
- A demonstrated commitment to challenge the status-quo and drive continuous improvements.