

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title	Senior Data Architecture & Engineering Lead		
Organisational Unit	Information Technology		
Functional Unit	Data Excellence		
Nominated Supervisor	National Manager, Data Excellence		
Classification	HEW 9		
CDF Level	CDF ₂ L	Position Number	10613467
Attendance Type	Full Time	Date reviewed	11-JUN-2026

ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

ACU has a bold vision for its future. Our Vision 2033 is our landmark statement of strategic direction for ACU's mission as a Catholic university to constitute a 'Christian presence in the university world confronting the great problems of society and culture'. Our mission is to help shape the coming generations in Australia and beyond, by enabling flourishing lives, fostering thriving communities, and building a more ethical future.

Our Catholic mission informs everything we do – challenging us to respect the dignity of the human person, serve the common good, and embed ethical and social justice considerations throughout our teaching and research. We strive to live our core values of truth, excellence, and service.

We are a publicly funded university, and while we are young, we have grown significantly and we and we are making our mark: we are one of the largest university contributors to the care economy in Australia and rank among the top universities worldwide. We have seven campuses around Australia, more than 200 partner universities on six continents, and a campus in Rome, Italy.

We prioritise our staff, supporting their growth with a positive culture, generous leave, and flexible work arrangements. We invite all staff to engage with our mission in whatever way is most meaningful to them – whether as Catholics, as members of other churches and faiths, or as people with no religious affiliation but who are willing to embrace our vision, mission and strategic direction. We continue to invest in our facilities and workplaces and actively involve staff in shaping the future direction of the organisation.

For further information about the university please refer to ACU's [organisational structure](#).

ABOUT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Operating within the ACU's Corporate Services Portfolio, the Information Technology Directorate's core purpose is to deliver and manage the technology capabilities required to enable learning, teaching, research and business support functions across ACU to achieve their strategic and operational objectives and to foster a culture of digital innovation that enables the advancement of ACU's offer and execution, student experiences, and its industry partnerships.

The Information Technology Directorate is led by the Chief Information and Digital Officer (CIDO) and a leadership team of five direct reports, each representing distinct areas of focus required to realise its purpose,
 PD_Senior Data Architecture & Engineering Lead

namely, Enterprise Capabilities, Data Excellence, Cyber Security, Service Delivery, and Digital Innovation & Change.

ABOUT BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Our Business Intelligence team deliver services relating to:

- Business intelligence
- ACU DataHub
- Data Strategy

POSITION PURPOSE

The Senior Data Architecture & Engineering Lead provides authoritative leadership and expert judgement in the design, governance and evolution of ACU's enterprise data architecture and data engineering capability. The role leads the definition of architectural standards and target states to ensure secure, scalable and sustainable data platforms that enable University-wide analytics, reporting, research, digital transformation and strategic decision-making.

Operating with a high degree of autonomy, the role influences enterprise-level outcomes, resolves complex and novel data architecture challenges, and partners with senior stakeholders to align data architecture and engineering initiatives with ACU's strategic objectives, regulatory obligations and mission.

This position is established on a fixed term basis for 18 months to support the delivery of time limited programs, including the target state data architecture implementation.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Introduction

A number of frameworks and standards express the University's expectations of the conduct, capability, participation and contribution of staff. These are listed below:

- [ACU's Vision 2033](#)
- [Catholic Identity and Mission](#)
- [Code of Conduct for all staff](#)
- [ACU Capability Development Framework](#)
- [ACU Staff Enterprise Agreement 2022-2025](#)
- [ACU Staff Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

The [Capability Development Framework](#) describes the core competencies needed in all ACU staff to achieve the university's strategy and supports its mission.

Responsibility	Scope
Lead the design, governance and evolution of ACU's enterprise data architecture, defining target states, architectural principles and standards that enable secure, scalable and sustainable data platforms with university-wide impact.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Provide authoritative expert advice on complex and novel data architecture matters, exercising professional autonomy to	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are

Responsibility	Scope
resolve issues that have significant strategic, regulatory, technical or reputational implications for the university.	implemented and have impact across the University
Establish and govern enterprise data architecture standards and patterns, ensuring consistent adoption across major programs, platforms and initiatives to support analytics, reporting, research and digital transformation.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Influence and partner with senior leaders, data owners and technology stakeholders to align data architecture and engineering initiatives with ACU's strategic objectives, regulatory obligations, privacy requirements and mission.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Oversee the architectural integrity of enterprise data platforms and integrations, ensuring solutions are future-ready, interoperable, and aligned to agreed target architectures and roadmaps.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Lead capability uplift across the University by establishing frameworks, guidance and communities of practice that build architectural and data maturity among data owners, stewards, custodians and technical teams.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Contribute to enterprise planning and investment decisions by assessing architectural options, risks and trade-offs, and recommending solutions that balance strategic value, sustainability, cost and risk.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Ensure data architectures comply with ACU's data governance, privacy, security and information management requirements, working closely with governance, cyber security, privacy and records teams.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Provide authoritative data architecture input to projects, initiatives and solution design forums under broad direction.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University
Ensure alignment between data architecture, enterprise architecture, cybersecurity and digital strategy.	The position contributes to activities; outcomes and goals; that are implemented and have impact across the University

HOW THE ROLE OPERATES

The position manages complex; difficult or challenging matters/issues/tasks on a regular basis; These matters are often impacted by internal/external factors (technical; policies and procedures; industrial; funding; academic).
The position is expected to demonstrate critical thinking to make recommendations; to meet changing demands; and provide business aligned solutions.
The position will need to influence and win the support of others to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.
The position manages a geographically dispersed team.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience:	• Qualification - Completion of relevant tertiary qualifications in data, information technology, architecture or a related discipline, and/or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training. • Experience - Extensive experience leading enterprise-scale data architecture and data engineering functions in complex organisations. • Experience - Demonstrated expertise in designing and governing modern data platforms, including cloud-based, AI and analytics-driven architectures. • Experience - Proven ability to provide strategic technical leadership and influence senior stakeholders. • Experience - Demonstrated experience leading and mentoring technical specialists. • Knowledge - Strong knowledge of data architecture, governance, security, privacy and quality frameworks. • Skill - Demonstrated analytical, problem-solving and decision-making skills. • Skill - Excellent communication and stakeholder engagement skills, with the ability to translate strategy into execution. • Knowledge - Familiarity with project management and change management principles.
Core Competencies:	• Demonstrate confidence and courage in achieving ACU's Mission, Vision and Values by connecting the purpose of one's work to ACU's Mission, Vision and Values. • Understand the business environment in which ACU operates and adopt a university-wide point of view to seize opportunities and improve commercial viability. • Work collaboratively internally and externally to ACU to capitalise on all available expertise in pursuit of excellence. • Communicate with purpose. Gain the support of others for actions that benefit ACU. Negotiate for mutually beneficial outcomes that are aligned with the Mission, Vision and Values of the University. • Coach and develop self and others through setting clear expectations, managing performance and developing required capabilities to establish a culture of learning and improvement.
Essential Attributes:	Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity and ethical practice principles and demonstrated knowledge of equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety, appropriate to the level of the appointment.
Working with Children and vulnerable adults check	This role does not require a Working with Children Check.
Pre-employment declaration and background check	Preferred candidates will be required to complete mandatory pre-employment declarations and background checks, including those related to gender-based violence and foreign interference, in line with ACU's compliance requirements.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

For further information about the structure of the University, refer to the Organisation Chart
<https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/leadership-and-governance/leadership/organisational-structure>

