



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Faculty of
Business and
Economics

2030 Research Strategy

Acknowledg of Country



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The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

Introduction

Our individual and collective prosperity are shaped by economic forces and business practices. Research excellence and impact in these fields has the potential to make a significant difference to our lives.

The Faculty of Business and Economics (FBE) is home to outstanding academics and graduate researchers who have an uncompromising focus on research excellence and impact. We deliver high value research that drives positive change to collective knowledge, industry practice, public policy, and to the sustainability of our planet and society.

FBE academics, for example, have developed insight into how consumer action can make a difference to the success of sustainability policies —transitioning to net-zero and improving conditions for gig workers. FBE led research has shown that enforcing anti-trust legislation can permanently increase employment and business formation and lead to higher average wages. This is valuable evidence of the effectiveness of competition regulation and policy. High value research in economics and business domains, such as these

examples, can lead to real impact that we can register in our day-to-day experience.

This strategy sets out how, between now and 2030, we will create the conditions for our academics and graduate researchers, and their research, to thrive. It focuses on achieving research excellence and impact, and the objectives and actions:

- Uphold academic freedom as a fundamental principle of research
- Align with Advancing Melbourne 2030
- Embrace diversity, equity and inclusion principles in all aspects of research and collaboration
- Adhere to ethical standards, regulatory requirements and research integrity principles.

Our research objectives and actions are organised into four themes, which

emerged from consultation with stakeholders inside and outside the faculty. They are:

- Enable the best research talent and culture
- Engage deeply and strategically with external stakeholders and environments
- Leverage technology, digital tools and data
- Research collaboration to think big.

Working to these themes will enable research that fuels and inspires change makers here in Australia and around the world.

Now more than ever we need this commitment to research excellence. It is part of what makes us uniquely Melbourne: brave in our research, forging our own paths, and inspiring others.



Strategy on a page

Research themes

Enable the best research talent and culture

Objectives

- Develop, recognise and support outstanding research talent throughout the career lifecycle by incubating, launching, and being home to stellar academic careers
- Foster a high performance culture that recognises and values all forms of research excellence, and encourages and rewards innovation, bold research ideas and agendas
- Optimise recruitment to attract and retain leading and exciting academics

Engage deeply and strategically

Objectives

- Create opportunities for external engagement, partnerships, and sources of inspiration to enhance our research excellence and impact across the entire research lifecycle, from inception to impact
- Build connections and nurture deep and enduring relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders and communities in local and global domains
- Recognise, promote and model engagement partnerships, connections, embeddedness, and being inspired
- Design and deliver engaged student learning with research led subject content

Implementation principles

Committed leadership
who walk the talk and
sustain the journey

Two-way communication
and celebration
of success

Priorities matched by
infrastructure, services,
people, and financial
resources

Leverage technology, digital tools and data

Objectives

- Ensure that our researches have access to rich and robust data and develop long-term relationships with owners of data sources, access to state-of-the-art digital, AI, computational systems and hardware, and the training and capabilities to use these tools to enhance their research excellence, engagement and impact
- Harness cutting-edge technology to represent and communicate our research in engaging and innovative ways to broad audiences
- Recognise, reward and leverage expertise within the technology, digital and data ecosystems of the faculty, university and beyond

Research collaboration to think big

Objectives

- Support our researchers to identify and build research collaborations and ecosystems in and outside of the faculty, so they can grasp exciting research opportunities and tackle complex challenges
- Transform systems and stakeholders to streamline multidisciplinary, cross-faculty, cross-institutional research and ecosystems
- Recognise and showcase multidisciplinary, cross-faculty and cross-institutional collaborations to show their value and to share learning

Effective governance with clear structure, roles and processes

Clear accountability and incentives

A living strategy with regular review

Our research

We are uniquely Melbourne

We are leaders,
not followers

We are a faculty that
is purpose driven and
research led

We take risks and
span boundaries
to be inspired, to
engage and to create
positive impact
across many domains

Our research reflects
diversity of values
and perspectives
as we nurture and
encourage both the
power of individual
and collective ideas

Departments

Accounting
Economics
Finance
Management and Marketing
Melbourne Institute

Faculty team

The faculty team work with the departments and the graduate research team to implement their strategies and realise their research objectives. The faculty team also work to implement the Advancing Melbourne 2030 research objectives within the FBE context

Graduate research team

The graduate research team is a key part of our research ecosystem. Its objectives, actions and roadmap are integrated into this 2030 Research Strategy

We are uniquely Melbourne

As purpose-driven researchers, we take the lead in our field rather than follow, both in Australia and among an international community of researchers.

Taking the lead means being brave in our research, forging our own paths, inspiring others and mitigating risks rather than eliminating them. It means creating a culture of deep thinking as we strive to create impact both now and in the future.

Being uniquely Melbourne is about fostering diverse values and perspectives, balancing competitiveness and collegiality, sharing ideas and encouraging collective effort, while also nurturing the individual to ensure that all our academics are supported in their research ambitions. This is how we help our researchers take risks and cross boundaries to create a positive impact in many domains.

Here we capture what we believe are four key aspects of our ambition and identity.

We are research led

- Research is the backbone of our faculty and central to everything that we do
- Our research is purpose-led and focused on improving people’s lives and the world around us — this is how we have impact
- Research informs our teaching and how we engage with communities

We create the time and space for research

- Research excellence emerges from deep thinking and we create a working environment and culture conducive to that
- We strive to create time for research within the work hours of academics

We prioritise the collective

- We have collective ownership of our research vision and objectives
- We cross-pollinate ideas and ways of working across the faculty and the University of Melbourne

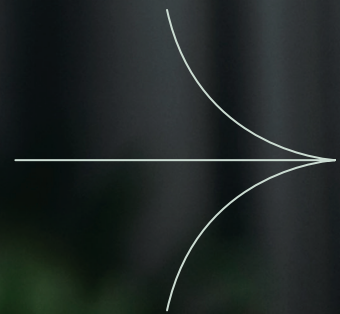
We span boundaries

- Our researchers walk in many worlds
- Our research is future focused
- It is inspired by, engaged with, and has impact in many domains, including academic fields, public policy, local and global communities, Indigenous knowledges and professional practice



Themes and objectives

Our research objectives and prioritised actions are organised into four themes, which reflect our ambition and identity as uniquely Melbourne.



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Research talent and culture enable a vibrant intellectual environment that encourages research excellence and impact.

To achieve research excellence, we must recruit, retain, develop and recognise the capabilities of outstanding academics. By supporting their research ambitions and fostering a positive and dynamic research culture, we will:

- Drive innovation and bold research
- Secure competitive funding
- Produce high-impact publications that enhance the reputations of our researchers, the faculty and the university
- Drive high-impact societal outcomes.



Enable the best research talent and culture



Objectives

1

Develop, recognise and support outstanding research talent throughout the career lifecycle by incubating, launching and being home to stellar academic careers.

2

Foster a high-performance culture that recognises and values all forms of research excellence, and encourages and rewards innovation and bold research ideas and agendas.

3

Optimise recruitment to attract and retain leading and exciting academics.

Engage deeply and strategically with external stakeholders



Objectives

1

Create opportunities for external engagement, partnerships and sources of inspiration to enhance our research excellence and impact across the entire research lifecycle, from inception to impact.

2

Build connections and nurture deep, enduring relationships with a diverse range of stakeholders and communities in local and global domains.

3

Recognise, promote and model engagement partnerships, connections, embeddedness, and being inspired.

4

Design and deliver engaged student learning with research led subject content.



By engaging deeply and seeking out new environments we will ensure that our research is relevant, inspired, embedded and impactful.

The research environment is changing and traditional funding sources are diminishing. It is becoming increasingly important to secure sustainable funding and support.

By building partnerships and seeking 'out of the box' inspiration in new environments, we can ensure our research aligns with real-world needs. This will enhance research excellence, the applicability of our research and our relevance to external stakeholders.



Leverage
technology,
digital tools
and data



In today's fast-paced and data-driven world, cutting-edge technology and digital platforms, access to real-time, rich and robust sources of data are crucial for research excellence.

By embracing leading-edge technological and digital advancements we enhance our research capabilities, making it possible to:

- Address complex questions
- Represent our research in highly novel and engaging ways.

Objectives

1

Ensure that our researchers have access to rich and robust data and develop long-term relationships with owners and custodians of data sources.

2

Ensure our researchers have access to state-of-the-art digital, AI, computational systems and technology and hardware that are highly relevant to their work and the training and capabilities to use these tools to enhance research excellence, engagement and impact.

3

Harness cutting-edge technology to represent and communicate our research in engaging and innovative ways to broad audiences.

4

Recognise, reward and leverage expertise within the technology, digital and data ecosystem of the faculty, university and beyond.

Research collaboration to think big

Complex global challenges require multidisciplinary research ecosystems that bring together expertise from across many disciplines and methodologies.

Diverse yet complementary research perspectives and skills, in high performance research collaborations, allow us to tackle problems effectively and comprehensively through excellent and impactful research.

Collaboration can also encourage researchers to 'think big' and see problems from new and interesting vantage points.



Objectives

1

Support our researchers to identify and build research collaborations and ecosystems within and outside of the faculty, so they can grasp exciting research opportunities and tackle complex challenges.

2

Transform systems and engage stakeholders to streamline multidisciplinary, cross-faculty, cross-institutional research and ecosystems.

3

Recognise and showcase multidisciplinary, cross-faculty, cross-institutional collaborations to show their value and to share learning.



Read about our research projects at
<https://fbe.unimelb.edu.au/research>

Our roadmap

Bringing the strategy to life

Committed leadership

- Champions
- Walk the talk
- Sustain the journey

Effective governance

- Structure
- Roles
- Processes
- Leveraging existing mechanisms

Two-way communication

- Ongoing communication
- Listen and act
- Ownership by all
- Celebrate success

To be effective, our strategy needs to be treated as a living document — referred to, reported against and revised when necessary.

Here we set out the actions which have been made a priority over the next two years.

To maintain momentum we must take an intentional approach to implementation. By following these commitments we will ensure that the strategy fosters a culture of excellence and innovation and remains dynamic and responsive to new information.

Clear accountability

- Strategies for our faculty, each department and graduate research
- Clear actions and responsibilities
- Clear incentives
- Measure and monitor

Resources match priorities

- Financial
- People
- Infrastructure
- Services

Living strategy

- 5 year overview
- 1–2 year focus
- Annual review
- Mid-term review
- End review





CONTACT US

www.fbe.unimelb.edu.au/research

