Our values

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

We achieve excellence through how we work, and by being connected, curious and courageous in everything we do

Connected

How we relate to each other and the world



Definition

We achieve more together as one University through connection, humility and mutual respect.

Our strength lies in the purposeful relationships we build across disciplines, communities, sectors and places — locally, regionally and globally.

We listen to Country, acknowledging and respecting the deep history and knowledge of the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we learn and work.

We embrace diversity, listen deeply and create environments where people feel they belong, contribute and are valued. We stand against racism, exclusion and discrimination.

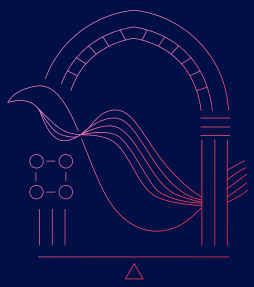
By working collectively and sharing knowledge, we strengthen belonging, reduce silos and improve outcomes for students, staff and partners. We recognise that excellence is achieved through collaboration.

Core behaviours

- Acknowledges connection to Country and Indigenous knowledge in relevant decisions and ways of working.
- Builds trusting relationships through deep listening, humility and mutual respect.
- Creates inclusive environments where diversity is valued and racism, discrimination, harassment and violence are named and addressed.
- Creates opportunities for people to contribute, belong and thrive, recognising the value that diverse experiences and backgrounds bring to our community.
- Works collectively across disciplines, communities, sectors and global networks, sharing knowledge and building partnerships that advance the University's impact locally, nationally and globally.

Curious

How we learn and understand



Curiosity is central to our purpose: to benefit society through the transformative impact of education and research.

We ask thoughtful questions, approach ideas and perspectives with respectful curiosity, and remain open to learning.

We innovate and continuously improve to advance knowledge, enrich education and strengthen research and professional practice.

Through stewardship, we use our capabilities responsibly for the public good, helping students, staff and partners thrive now and into the future. We seek positive social transformation through learning, discovery and responsible action.

- Builds understanding by actively listening to different perspectives and ideas with respectful curiosity.
- Questions existing practices and uses evidence, insight and learning to improve outcomes.
- Innovates to improve research, education and professional service outcomes.
- Builds capability, removes barriers to performance and strengthens outcomes for students, staff and partners.
- Acts as a steward of the University, balancing local needs with long-term impact and sustainability.

Courageous

How we act



We pursue knowledge and understanding through rigorous scholarship and professional expertise, with courage, accountability and transparency.

Academic freedom thrives when open-mindedness, responsibility and rigour guide our work.

We act with integrity, make principled decisions grounded in evidence and reason, and engage in respectful enquiry and constructive challenge.

We speak up when it matters, take ownership of our actions and decisions, and hold ourselves and each other to high standards of conduct and performance in service of excellence for students, staff and partners.

- We pursue knowledge and understanding through rigorous scholarship and professional expertise, with care, integrity and transparency.
- Academic freedom thrives when humility, open-mindedness, responsibility and rigour guide our work.
- We build trust by aligning actions with words, relying on evidence and reason, and engaging in respectful enquiry across teaching, research and partnerships.