

The Leadership Roles of Melbourne Professors

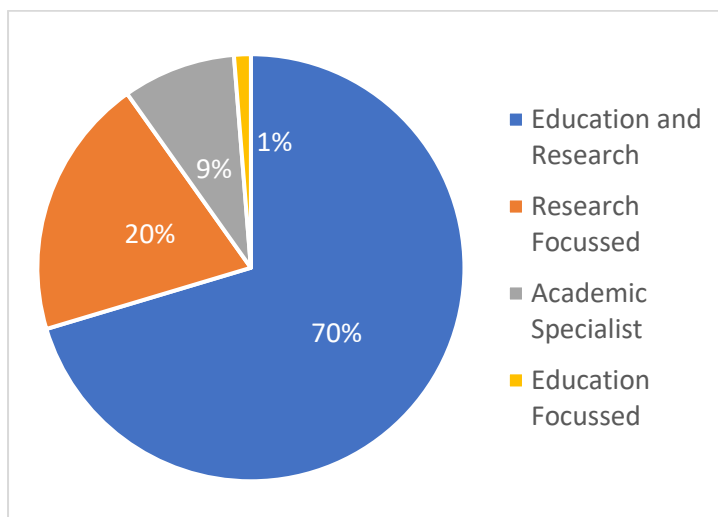


The rank of University of Melbourne professor brings with it expectations of distinguished leadership within and beyond the University. As the roles and activities of Melbourne professors are highly diverse, their leadership contributions are made in a variety of ways. This document frames the leadership expectations for professors and highlights the differing domains in which they may exercise influence for the betterment of the University and society.

Professors who, upon retirement or resignation, have provided distinguished and sustained service to the University through scholarship, intellectual and institutional leadership and have created an enduring legacy may be recognised with an appointment as Professor Emeritus.

The University of Melbourne has a large and diverse professorial community. The University has some 900 salaried professors (of which 40% are women and 60% men), constituting approximately 15% of the overall salaried academic staff. In addition, over 1000 honorary professors collectively make an extraordinary contribution to the University's education and research across faculties, affiliated hospitals and research institutes.

University of Melbourne salaried professors (2023)



Regardless of the specific nature of their appointments and roles, all Melbourne professors are expected to be ambassadors for the University who advance the capacity and standing of the institution. This can be achieved in a number of ways. For many professors, their leadership contributions are research-focussed; for others, it may be through education; for many, it is a combination of these.

The leadership of professors is of course essential to achieving international excellence for the University. Melbourne professors have global and national prominence as intellectual leaders in their fields. It is expected that professors will work within and beyond established boundaries and discipline norms to produce education and research of the highest standard.

Endorsed by: University Appointments and Promotions Committee

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Melbourne professors also make distinguished contributions to shaping and advancing undergraduate and graduate education in their department and faculty, as well as the wider University. As inspirational educators, professors serve as role models and mentors to students and academic staff and lead the achievement of world-class graduate attributes and educational outcomes for Melbourne's students.

The Melbourne professoriate includes professors who are prominent and critically-engaged public intellectuals who make authoritative contributions to government, industry, business and communities that improve society, creating an institutional environment that values and harmonises academic quality alongside societal impact and influence. Melbourne's Enterprise Professors make particular contributions that build the University's engagement with industry, business and government.

Professors of the University of Melbourne may make formal leadership contributions, such as through designated management and governance roles at faculty and University-wide level. Less formally, all professors are expected to be exemplary leaders of both academic and professional staff. They should actively develop others and actively contribute to the life of the University.

Professors are also expected to uphold and symbolise the highest levels of ethical practice and academic and professional integrity and to serve as role models in their relationships with students, professional staff and academics at all levels.

Examples of professorial leadership include:

- making important contributions to education policy and practice through influential scholarship on teaching, learning, curriculum and assessment. Providers of expert educational advice to government and peak bodies, many professors influence national and international educational thinking and policy. At the University, Professors may build the nexus between education and research, establish curricula and teaching that is engaged with industry, business and communities, create work-integrated learning opportunities and introduce educational innovation.
- helping early career academics and the University's students to forge influential research careers of their own. Actively nurturing and developing the research skills of other researchers, professors lead collaborative research teams, secure research grants that build institutional capacity and create opportunities for younger staff to meet and work alongside senior colleagues.
- leading national and international academic, professional and community organisations and making intellectual contributions of significant value to public discourse, culture and institutions. The University strives to be one of the finest in the world in its engagement with society and commitment to public value, and professors may lead and serve on expert committees, participate in national and international reviews and lead community engagement and development programs.