



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE



ENGAGING WITH  
**CHINA**

2020–2024

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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## CONTENTS

<b>FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR</b>	<b>1</b>
---------------------------------	----------

<b>PLAN FOR A COMPLEX AND CHANGING ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>2</b>
--	----------

INTRODUCTION	2
--------------	---

A LONG, SHARED HISTORY	2
------------------------	---

HIGHER EDUCATION IN CHINA AND AUSTRALIA	3
---	---

OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND SHARED PRIORITIES	4
---	---

<b>2024 VISION: TO CREATE VALUE THROUGH INNOVATION AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>6</b>
--	----------

CREATING VALUE	7
----------------	---

<b>KEY ENABLERS</b>	<b>8</b>
---------------------	----------

<b>STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY</b>	<b>10</b>
---	-----------

CAPABILITIES APPROACH	10
-----------------------	----

WHOLE-OF-LIFE VIEW	11
--------------------	----

<b>CONFRONTING GLOBAL CHALLENGES TOGETHER</b>	<b>12</b>
---	-----------

FINDING SHARED SOLUTIONS, BUILDING A SHARED FUTURE	13
--	----

THEME ONE: PEOPLE, PLACE AND CULTURE	14
--------------------------------------	----

THEME TWO: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	16
---	----

THEME THREE: GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS	18
--	----

THEME FOUR: HEALTH AND WELLBEING	20
----------------------------------	----

THEME FIVE: URBANISATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	22
---	----

<b>SHARED FUTURE UNLIMITED POTENTIAL</b>	<b>24</b>
--	-----------

### Front cover:

A University of Melbourne-National Gallery of Victoria partnership brought together academics from the University of Melbourne and staff from the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) in a series of events and public programs associated with NGV's 2019 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition, *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality* | Cai Guo-Qiang: *The Transient Landscape*.

Cai Guo-Qiang *Murmuration (Landscape)* 2019 (detail). Gunpowder on porcelain; 23.0 x 10.0 m (installation). Realised in Dehua, Fujian Province and Melbourne, commissioned by the NGV. Proposed acquisition supported by Barry Janes and Paul Cross, Norman and Pauline Bloom, Ying Zhang in association with the Asian Australian Foundation, Betsy Polasek, Tim Fairfax AC and Gina Fairfax, Peter Greenham and Anne Greenham, Anthea S. V. Robinson Bequest, Margaret Munro Hendy Bequest, the AGL Shaw Bequest and donors to the 2019 NGV Foundation Annual Dinner and 2019 NGV Annual Appeal. © Cai Guo-Qiang. Photo © Tobias Titz



# FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



The University is proud to host multiple centres and institutes that focus on China-related research and strengthen our understanding of China and the wider Asian region.

**China's growth and its ever-increasing strategic influence on the Asia Pacific region will shape Australia's economic and strategic future. Higher Education has been a vital part of the close and longstanding bilateral relationship that has developed over the course of more than 45 years of formal diplomatic ties. Over this period, education cooperation has expanded dramatically, delivering significant social, cultural and economic benefits to both countries.**

There is no nation that is exerting a greater impact on the broader Asia Pacific region's economy, security, environment and people than that of China. As one of the fastest-growing major economies, the world's second-largest economy, and most populous country, China has enjoyed phenomenal economic growth in recent decades, driven by investment, exports, and an expanding domestic market. While its growth rate has moderated, China is expected to overtake the United States as the world's largest economy in coming years.

Beyond its economic weight, China's extensive aid program (particularly in the Pacific) is having a profound effect on the priorities and economies of developing nations within the region. China's global academic research impact is significant and rapidly increasing. In the past 15 years, Chinese research and development expenditure as a share of GDP has risen from 0.9 per cent (2005) to 2.145 per cent in 2017. Today, China spends more on research and development than Japan, Germany and the Republic of Korea combined, and is only exceeded by the United States in terms of gross expenditure.

As outlined in our strategy *Advancing Melbourne*, the University of Melbourne's strategic direction is grounded in its purpose to benefit society through the transformative impact of education and research. Together, this vision and purpose inform the focus and scale of our aspirations for the coming decade. In line with the strategy, the University aims to lead, convene and collaborate through strategic partnerships on a global scale. So too our China engagement plan commits us to an exceptional educational experience for students, and the pursuit of mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborative research and in so doing, will help achieve the global objectives outlined in *Advancing Melbourne*.

For the University of Melbourne, China is and will remain one of our most important partners. As an institution, we have a rich history of research collaboration with and about China, and on the shared issues we face. The University has formal whole-of-institution or faculty-level partnerships with 36 Chinese tertiary institutions supported by the relationships that have been forged between our academic and professional staff and their Chinese counterparts. We also have strong relationships with numerous government and other educational bodies in China. We welcome thousands of Chinese students every year in both our undergraduate and postgraduate programs and they are an integral part of our diverse student community. China is also one of our most important research partners – in fact, China is the second highest source of joint research publications for the University.

The University is proud to host multiple centres and institutes focussing on China-related research and on strengthening our understanding of China and the wider Asian region. Our Australia-China Joint Research Centres, the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, Asian Law Centre, the Asia Institute and Asialink all help drive our engagement with and scholarship about China and the region. The University also hosts a Confucius Institute focussing on fostering understanding of Chinese culture and language.

Shifting opportunities and challenges presented over the course of the next two decades will be unlike anything Australia has experienced in the past. Particularly at a time when responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are having dramatic impacts, including in higher education, mutually beneficial engagement in tackling these challenges is essential. This China engagement plan seeks to reflect the University's strengths and aspirations and to find areas of common ground where we can learn from our Chinese partners, work towards common goals, and make a positive impact on both our countries and our region. *Engaging with China 2020–2024* sets out a five year-plan for the University of Melbourne's engagement with China – engagement that is founded on the principles of shared aspirations, mutual benefit and respectful partnership.

# PLAN FOR A COMPLEX AND CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

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## INTRODUCTION

For over 45 years formal diplomatic relations and an expanded collaboration in higher education have delivered significant social, cultural and economic benefits to Australia and China. The University of Melbourne has played an important role in the development of a close education relationship between our two countries.

The University of Melbourne's relationship with China is broad and enduring, but in an increasingly competitive and complex operating environment we must ensure it continues to deliver mutual benefits.

Equal partnership, long term engagement and mutual benefit are the guiding principles of the University's China engagement plan, with a focus on areas of shared interest, expertise and need. Acknowledging the rise of China on the geo-political stage in the 21st Century, the plan aligns with China's priorities while reflecting and building on the University's strengths, identity, values and goals.

Together with our plans for engagement with India and Indonesia, this plan will provide a foundation for the University's international engagement agenda over the next five years. These plans, with distinct and unique goals and ambitions, share a coherent vision for the University's international engagement.

## A LONG, SHARED HISTORY

The University's connections to China have been forged over several decades and informed by the rich history of the Australian Chinese community in Australia. The first China-related subject 'Far Eastern History' was launched in the 1950s and, thanks to a donation from the Myer Foundation, the Department of Oriental Studies welcomed its first students in 1961.

Under the leadership of the inaugural Head of Department, Professor Harry Simon, Chinese studies at the University grew over the next two decades. The original Myer Foundation donation supported the development of the East Asian Collection in the Baillieu Library, which has continued to grow and remains an invaluable resource.

While the formal bilateral relationship between Australia and China is less than 50 years old, our informal relationship is much older. Indigenous oral histories, for example, suggest there was direct contact between Chinese traders and the Yolngu people, a historical belief supported by the 2014 discovery of a Qing dynasty coin in Arnhem Land suggesting first contact occurred in the 1700s.

Chinese immigration to Victoria dates back to 1818 and later surged during the gold rushes of the 1850s. By 1861 the Chinese community made up seven per cent of Melbourne's population, with inner-city Bourke Street a centre of Chinese cultural and business activity. Chinatown in Melbourne has been an integral part of Melbourne's multicultural landscape for over 160 years. Melbourne's and the University's cultural identity, culinary landscape and economic life has in many ways been shaped by its vibrant Australian Chinese community since 1851. Multiculturalism is central to Melbourne's sense of identity – and as an institution inextricably linked with the history and identity of this city.

According to the 2016 census, today Australia is home to over 1.2 million people of Chinese ancestry, with 356,324 living in Melbourne. Chinese Australians have made invaluable contributions to the social, economic, political, artistic and academic progress of Australia and our city.

## HIGHER EDUCATION IN CHINA AND AUSTRALIA

**China has announced its aim of becoming a dominant power in higher education and of launching its elite universities into the world's top ranks. To achieve this, China is pursuing a strategy of increasing its number of international students and increasing large scale investment as outlined in its Double First Class initiative.**

- China has over 3000 higher education institutions, the majority government funded.
- With rising incomes, demand for tertiary education in China is expected to keep growing.
- Higher education is Australia's fourth largest export with 300,000 international students from China studying in Australia (2018 data). The numbers of Chinese international students studying in Australia is likely to moderate in coming years with competition from China's own universities and other elite institutions globally.
- In 2018, higher education institutions accounted for over 45 million students in China.
- In the past 15 years, China has increased its research and development expenditure as a share of GDP from 0.9 per cent (2000) to 1.32 per cent (2005) and then to 2.11 per cent in 2016.
- China spends more on research and development than Japan, Germany, and the Republic of Korea combined and only trails the United States in terms of gross expenditure (although the quality of research outputs remains uneven).



Students from the University of Melbourne's Advanced Art Fieldwork subject 'Contemporary Art in China' with Sue Hui, Director of the Video Bureau in Guangzhou.

## OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES AND SHARED PRIORITIES

### Opportunities and challenges

- Research collaboration between scholars in China and the University of Melbourne is actively growing, driven by the increasing number of world class scholars in China, and by a well-resourced Chinese Higher Education system with strong career incentives for international collaboration.
- The University of Melbourne has many opportunities to strengthen and expand our partnerships with Chinese institutions. Our experience indicates that successful institutional partnerships in China are built on a holistic exchange comprised of research, teaching, joint subjects, and co-supervision. We will work to support our existing partnerships by building on teaching, research and innovative mobility programs.
- While Australia and China have aligned interests in a number of areas, there are other fields where we have divergent interests or different scholarly traditions. Additionally, there are differences in institutional policy and domestic regulation in areas such as intellectual property, academic freedom and privacy law that must be considered when exploring research collaboration. Importantly, there remain untapped opportunities for Australia and China to work together to solve many shared and pressing challenges we face in areas such as health, ageing and environmental change.
- The international student experience, including that of Chinese students, requires care and attention and the tertiary sector is subject to scrutiny over its treatment of all international students. This plan complements the University of Melbourne's new initiatives to improve the student experience and enhance established support programs, some of which are tailored to Chinese international students. The University is creating and expanding programs that assist all international students to thrive in Melbourne and to continue to benefit from and contribute to our community after graduation.
- In recent years, the University of Melbourne has seen a rapid increase in overall student mobility, primarily driven by the availability of short-term programs such as summer and winter schools and overseas subjects. Such mobility programs allow staff and students to build individual connections that bring long-term mutual benefits to both Australia and China.

## Shared priorities

China's ambition, as outlined in its twelfth and thirteenth Five Year Plans and the China 2030 strategy developed by the State Council and the World Bank, is to build a society that is modern, harmonious and creative by 2030. To realise these aims China's development strategy highlights six long-term 'pillars' as a focus for policymakers. These pillars are highly relevant to many of the economic, social and demographic challenges faced by Australia, providing a strong basis for mutually beneficial research collaboration and partnership.

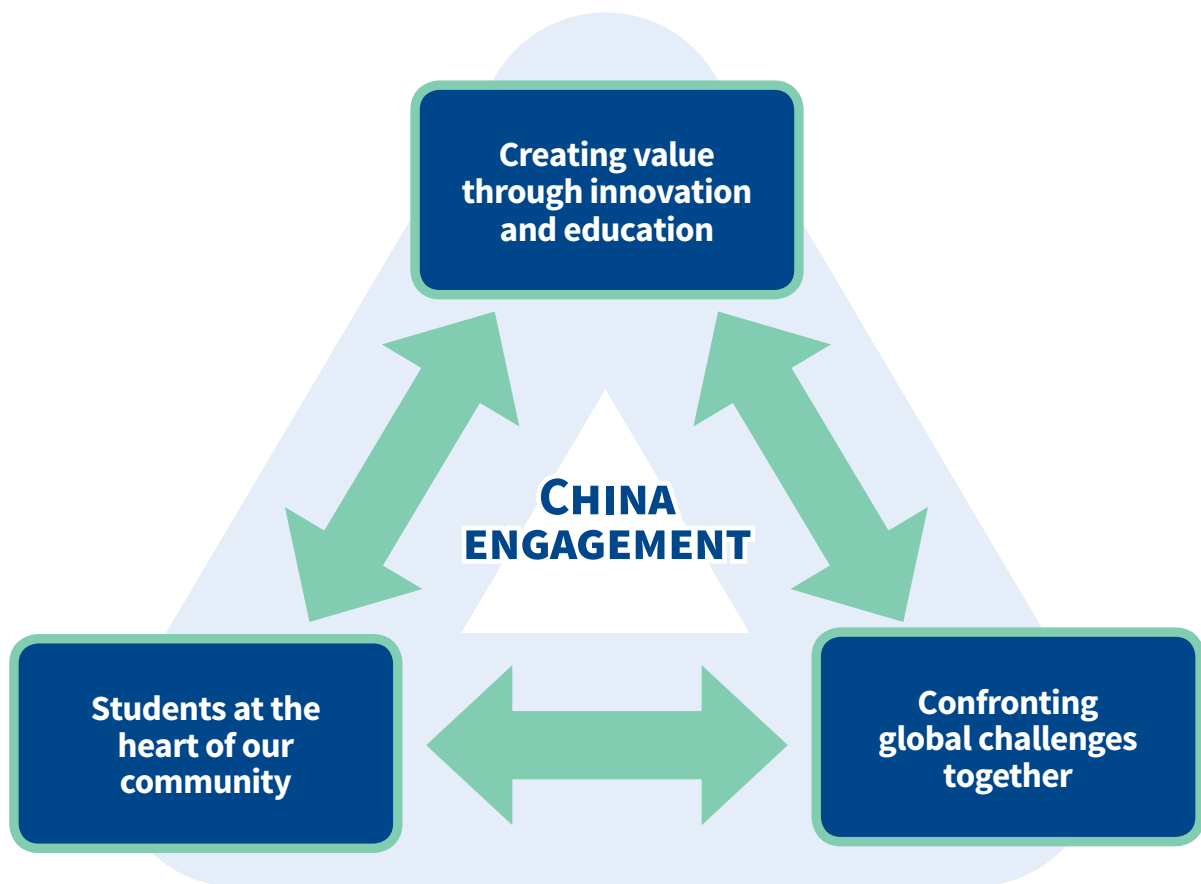
- 1.** China is considering structural reforms to support its next stage of economic growth and development in the financial, land and labour markets, focusing in particular on the relationship between government, the markets and the private sector.
- 2.** China aims to continuously improve the quality of its research to support greater innovation by its firms, by working with global partners and networks, boosting graduates' skills, building world-class universities and developing 'innovative cities'.
- 3.** China wants to 'grow green' through a mix of market incentives, regulations, public investments and industrial policies to not only boost health and wellbeing, but to also address complex local and regional environmental challenges.
- 4.** By 2030 two-thirds of the Chinese population is expected to be living in urban areas resulting in the need for 'smart urbanisation' and balance between green areas, residential areas, factories, businesses, shopping areas, and recreational facilities such as parks and playing fields.
- 5.** China's financial system must continue to evolve to support its economic ambitions, which require flexibility, transparency, and responsiveness to emerging priorities.
- 6.** China is focussed on multi-lateral engagements with international partners to shape the global governance agenda and address pressing global economic issues such as climate change, global financial stability, and the efficacy of international aid.

# 2024 VISION: TO CREATE VALUE THROUGH INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

**This plan seeks to lay the foundation for an even more collaborative, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership between the University of Melbourne and current and future Chinese partners. It will lay the foundation for a partnership that seeks to increase understanding between Australia and China across multiple dimensions and supports working together to find solutions to the pressing shared problems facing our regions.**

The University's vision is ambitious. It is comprehensive and anchored in our history, identity and ethos. It seeks to build on existing engagement and expertise to position the University as a partner of choice for China and as a leading influencer of global conversations on China and China-related issues. It seeks to build closer connections not just with our partners in China but with the Chinese people and the Australian Chinese community within our University, our city and Australia more broadly. It will ensure that the University remains connected to our students throughout their lives and will equip our graduates and our alumni with the skills they need to thrive in workplaces across the Asia-Pacific. It goes beyond the University's ambitions and reputation, seeking instead to guide our engagement by understanding the priorities, ambitions and needs of Chinese partners, alumni, peers and students.

It is centred around the goal of **creating value through innovation and education** and based on the principle of mutual benefit, with the aim of creating value and delivering equal benefits to our Chinese collaborators and to the University. To achieve this ambition, the University has identified two streams of activity: **building an inclusive community** and **confronting global challenges together**.







## CREATING VALUE

Creating value is a fundamental objective of the University of Melbourne's China engagement plan, and will serve as a call to action and guide to sound decision-making during the next five years. Mutual benefit will be an essential element for all engagement and collaboration opportunities – for the University, its partners, the community and the region.

The University seeks to create value through engagement with China through three avenues: supporting multi-disciplinary, innovative and high impact research; embedding Asia capability across the spectrum of activity; and through supporting and enabling research and teaching that is consistent with the University's values.

This plan is not focussed on student recruitment, but instead highlights capability, research, an inclusive student experience, long-term partnerships, global leadership and innovation.

To create value, the University's actions will be guided by and reflect the core values of:

- truth seeking
- academic freedom
- freedom of speech
- making a positive contribution to the world, and
- generosity.

Value will also be inherent in our commitment to people and by mindfulness of place:

- in Melbourne
- in Australia, with particular attention to Indigenous history and heritage
- in the Asia-Pacific as part of our regional identity, and
- reaching from the regional through to the global stage.

The themes of innovation and education are grounded in the University's ambition to create value. Innovation reflects true creativity and a desire to try new ways of solving complex challenges. Through education, the University is committed to providing all students with tools, skills and opportunities to live well and thrive, and to embed expertise on China across the spectrum of University activity.

# KEY ENABLERS

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To realise the goals of the University of Melbourne's China engagement plan, the necessary enabling mechanisms and structures are in place or require enhancement to existing structures.

## **Institutional knowledge and engagement 'champions' such as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Michael Wesley and Assistant Deputy Vice-Chancellor International (China) Professor Sarah Biddulph**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Michael Wesley is a renowned international relations scholar with extensive experience across the Asia-Pacific, including China. As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Wesley is responsible for leading the University's international engagement. Professor Sarah Biddulph, from the Melbourne Law School, is Assistant Deputy Vice-Chancellor International (China). She has longstanding links to and expertise on China and is responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of this plan.

## **Effective international partnerships**

The University of Melbourne's engagement in China will be anchored by a suite of coherent institutional partnerships in which research, mobility and other activities are linked and mutually reinforcing. Existing institutional and divisional-level partnerships are a key asset in delivering the China engagement plan, and they will, in turn, benefit from the deeper engagement with China the plan will deliver.

The University will adopt a coordinated approach to partnership development and research collaboration which will maximise the benefits flowing to both the University and China from these partnerships and, at the same time, magnify the impact of research output.

## **Enabling organisational structure**

Lasting engagement and sustainable, innovative international partnerships are only possible when supported by an enabling operational structure. The University of Melbourne is constantly working to ensure our structures have the agility, resourcing and staff needed to realise the objectives of the China engagement plan. This includes ensuring that our risk evaluation framework is robust, that effective decision making is supported, that staff and students have access to a wide range of resources to support their research endeavours, and that we have an effective in-country presence in China.

To achieve this, the University will harness the power and resources of our international engagement staff, our representational offices in China and our academic divisions. Enhancing intra-organisational information sharing, coordination and collaboration on China-related activity is an immediate focus. We will also develop a suite of cultural development and training programs to deepen our Asia capability across the board.

### Research institutes and centres focussed on China and the region

The University of Melbourne's Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, Asian Law Centre, Asia Institute and Joint Australia-China Research centres will be key drivers of the China engagement plan activities. The University's partnership with Asialink is also a key resource. These centres and institutes, combined with an extensive network of staff producing world-leading research on China and China-related issues, are a key advantage for the University. We will continue to support this work and pursue avenues to amplify its impact.

### Staff and student mobility

In-country experience is vital to the development of cultural capability and language skills. The University of Melbourne provides students with a range of mobility and exchange opportunities both in China and with Chinese partners. Through international higher education networks such as the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and Universitas 21 (U21) our staff and students have access to a wide range of regional and international opportunities, including in China. Under its China engagement plan, the University will continue to explore new avenues and partnerships to expand opportunities for international engagement and exchange for both staff and students.

Ben Howes has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Melbourne. Ben's study experiences took him across the world, including to rural China with a research team to investigate the effects of air pollution on city dwellers. While in China, Ben and his academic colleagues visited major Chinese cities, interviewing hundreds of research participants and learning about water management and how hydroelectric systems and infrastructure projects have affected domestic migration and societal practice.



# STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

The University of Melbourne will adopt a capabilities approach with whole-of-life view to:

- Embed China capability and, more broadly, Asia-capability through the University of Melbourne's academic and profession development programs
- Give all our international students (of whom Chinese students are the largest group) the opportunity to derive maximum benefit out of their university experience, to develop the skills needed to build successful careers, and remain connected to the University throughout their lifetime
- Provide our domestic students with Chinese ancestry and language skills the opportunity to further develop their cultural and linguistic skills
- Provide all students the opportunity to learn more about their multicultural community and the contribution Chinese Australians have made to the history and life of the country.

## CAPABILITIES APPROACH

The University of Melbourne will focus on the skills, knowledge and capabilities of all our students and develop programs to support their personal and academic growth.

The University recognises the value of Asian cultural literacy, including China literacy, for the entire university community, including academic and professional staff, and students. This does not mean the University requires every member of our community to learn an Asian language. Rather it focuses on embedding cultural understanding, inter-cultural communication skills and an understanding of the history, differences, demographics and societies of the Asian region, including China.



After completing high school at Qingdao No.9 High School, Nuoya Liu came to Australia to study a Bachelor of Commerce (Economics and Finance) at the University of Melbourne. As part of her undergraduate degree, Nuoya completed an internship program offered by Shanghai Pudong Development Bank, Qingdao, working on credit card management, marketing, sales, and risk control. Nuoya loves Melbourne (the city) and Melbourne (the University), saying that living in Melbourne is just like a dream come true and, despite the weather and irregular public transport, she'll love it "to the end of the world". Nearing completion of her undergraduate studies and with the assistance of a scholarship, Nuoya is now looking to continue to graduate study at Melbourne Law School and practice as a lawyer in the future.





## WHOLE-OF-LIFE VIEW

The University of Melbourne's whole-of-life view means we view the student journey as starting from enrolment and continuing across their lifetime as alumni of the University. The University's alumni are one of our greatest strengths and our most powerful ambassadors. We have a responsibility to foster and encourage their ongoing connection, and are committed to contributing to their lifelong skills development.

The University's inclusive and China-capable community will provide opportunities for all students to benefit from a truly multicultural experience. Our ambition is that China capability becomes the norm and not the exception, and that all University of Melbourne graduates will be equipped to pursue fulfilling careers in China and across the broader Asia and Pacific region.

To achieve these ambitions, the University of Melbourne will:

- Invest further in resources for capacity building for students by expanding the existing framework of student success programs, including employability programs such as peer-to-peer training and leadership programs provided in collaboration with the Victorian government
- Strengthen institutional resources and capabilities to ensure the University is able to deliver world-class China capability and, more broadly, Asia-capability programs to staff and students
- Provide additional cultural awareness training and resources for academic and professional staff
- Expand opportunities for students to participate in innovative mobility programs
- Expand programs that help its students live well in Australia, such as those offered by University of Melbourne Sport to promote health and safety, and provide opportunities for them to make new friends.

### Focus on China

From 2018, the University of Melbourne's Focus on China program has provided Chinese employment and skill-development opportunities for students, including Chinese students returning after graduation, as well as strengthening partnerships with Chinese industry. In 2019, more than 1000 students participated in a seven-day program over eight weeks. Following success of the first year's program, 62 students accepted graduate job offers in China. The program has been strongly supported by industry partners who provide tangible employment opportunities in China.

# CONFRONTING GLOBAL CHALLENGES TOGETHER

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The issues facing Australia and China – from demographic change to climate change – are complex and shared. These issues will shape the future of our region and require a truly collaborative approach to find lasting solutions.

We have grouped these shared issues under five broad categories:

- People, Place and Culture
- Environment and Climate Change
- Governance and Institutions
- Health and Wellbeing
- Urbanisation and Infrastructure.

This research falls under two broad categories: research on China and research on global challenges as they manifest in China and the region.

The University of Melbourne will collaborate with Chinese partners to find lasting solutions to these shared issues and, ultimately, be recognised as a global leader of China-relevant research in these fields. The University will also advance research that examines the impact and influence of a rising China on the region and the world as a whole as we seek to inform the broader Australian and regional conversation on China.

Aligning with the discovery and global themes in the University's 2030 strategic plan, *Advancing Melbourne*, the China engagement plan provides new opportunities to develop multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional and multi-national research and engagement that contributes to solving some of the most pressing problems facing the world today.

These initiatives draw inspiration from the grand challenge framework the University established over the last decade in its research strategy, an institutional approach that draws on the deep expertise of our researchers.

The 'grand challenges' framework intersects with priorities set out in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which identify a shared global vision to solve complex global endeavours such as poverty eradication, social inclusion and global sustainability. The University is committed to making a meaningful contribution towards these goals and recognises there is great scope to collaborate with Chinese counterparts in doing so.

To promote these ambitions, the University will:

- Provide information and resources to support the development of productive collaborative relationships with Chinese partners
- Strengthen internal capacity and connections with educational, philanthropic and government agencies to ensure these engagements support the University's core values
- Enable graduate research students to collaborate with Chinese partners and equip them with the skills to find academic employment in Chinese universities
- Work with our Asian and China specialist research centres to promote and support Asia and China-focussed research and development of Asia capability across the University.

## **FINDING SHARED SOLUTIONS, BUILDING A SHARED FUTURE**

The research agenda of this China engagement plan is ambitious. It seeks to find solutions to the pressing and complex problems confronting our communities and region as a whole, while aligned with China's domestic priorities and Australia's national interests – and it is through this research that we will have a lasting and mutually beneficial impact.

The five research areas identified in this plan are uniquely suited to the multi-disciplinary approach at the heart of the University of Melbourne's deep and broad curriculum. The world's great challenges, whether climate change or global poverty, will require multi-faceted and cross-disciplinary approaches to find lasting solutions.



**“Our partners are our anchor...providing a channel for research and educational exchange and the conduit through which we engage with the broader university community.”**

**Professor Duncan Maskell**  
**Vice-Chancellor**



## THEME ONE: PEOPLE, PLACE AND CULTURE

The University of Melbourne will pursue research focussing on the social, demographic, cultural and historical trends, opportunities and challenges Australia and China share, bringing together research from across the humanities, performing and creative arts, education, law, health sciences and architecture to deepen our mutual understanding of societies, our history and the unique challenges our peoples face.

Understanding the long history Australia and China share, and examining the impact our societies and cultures have had on each other is important in enriching Australia's understanding of our own history. Arts consumption and cultural exchange is increasingly fluid and borderless, with classical music, painting and dance, in particular, increasing connections between China and the western world, including Australia. This growing cultural connection is a two-way process, with Chinese and Australian art forms becoming increasingly appealing to audiences in both countries, including members of the Chinese Australian community. As part of this China engagement plan, the University will explore the changing arts landscape, the cultural and economic opportunities stemming from the bilateral arts relationship, and the different points of view presented in Australian and Chinese art.

The People, Place and Culture theme also provides an avenue to discuss pressing issues and critical social policy priorities for Australia and China, and build on existing research in fields such as STEM education in early childhood, the experiences of Chinese Australian communities and the impact of international education and media consumption and flows. Researchers will also build on existing knowledge and research of key University of Melbourne China-focussed research institutes such as the Asia Institute and the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies.

### **Communicative Cities: Governance and Communication**

The Communicative Cities project is an active collaboration between the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Arts and Fudan University researchers that examines the impact of visitor experiences on the programming and design of the public zones of arts precincts. In the past decade, arts precincts have grown in number and scale around the world – including in Australia and China. However, in a context of multicultural societies and networked visitors, there is still little knowledge of the fit between public expectations, aesthetic innovation and urban design. Even less attention is given to the flows and encounters that occur in open spaces. The Communicative Cities project is developing an evaluative and comparative framework that will deepen awareness of inclusive models of public participation and vitalise connectivity between arts institutions in precincts. This project has the capacity to further revitalise art precincts and embed them into the fabric and life of our cities.



The eaglehawk Bunjil is the spirit creator of the Kulin Nation on whose land the main campuses of the University of Melbourne stand. This powerful and imposing sculpture, standing 25 metres high, is the work of renowned Australian artist Bruce Armstrong whose work adorns public spaces throughout the city of Melbourne.



## THEME TWO: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The most pressing, complex and divisive issues facing Australia and China relate to the environment and climate change. This field offers great potential to make a meaningful and lasting impact for the good of both countries, the region and the world.

The complex nature of environment and climate change issues, and the difficulty in implementing effective solutions to these challenges makes it imperative they are approached through a multi-disciplinary lens. These issues are relevant to science, engineering, public policy, architecture, agricultural and veterinary sciences, health sciences, law and business and economics. Under this China engagement plan, the University of Melbourne will support and pursue projects with China that are both research specific and multi-disciplinary in nature.

These projects will build on the University's existing body of China-relevant environment and climate change research which include studies on topics as varied as green transport infrastructure, Arctic Sea ice loss and weather extremes in Eurasia and North America, the market impact of air pollution in China, and healthy soils for sustainable food and environmental quality. The Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies is also working on multi-disciplinary projects with University of Melbourne geographers on urban and rural China, land and water.

### Joint Research Centre for Graphene Optoelectronics

With generous support from the Australia-China Science Research Fund, this project seeks to develop flexible electronics applications such as low-cost flexible solar cells for portable power generations and near-infra-red technologies. This research will enable a more efficient use of energy and will make the cost of renewable energy, such as solar, more affordable and accessible. It also has the capacity to continue to contribute to increasing energy security in Australia and China and have a positive impact on carbon emissions. The Joint Research Centre collaborates with Chinese partners including Chongqing Institute of Green and Intelligent Technology, Wuhan University of Technology, Nanjing University.





Graphene is one of the most exciting new materials to have emerged in the last 50 years. Working with partners including Chongqing Institute of Green and Intelligent Technology, Wuhan University of Technology, Nanjing University, Monash University, and industrial partners Greatcell Solar, Agilent Technologies and Chongqing Moxi Technology Co, the University of Melbourne is working to develop potential new products across a wide range of optics, electronics, spectroscopy and energy applications.

## THEME THREE: GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Australia and China's respective political, financial and legal regimes may be different, but both countries require effective institutions and peaceful societies to thrive. China is Australia's largest trading partner and with the two countries' economies increasingly connected, China's continued economic growth and development is of importance to Australia's economic future. China is a critical export market for Australia and the Australian business community continues to look for new investment and growth opportunities in China. For the Chinese business community, Australia remains an attractive investment destination.

The University of Melbourne's commitment to effective institutions, justice and good governance will inform its work on the theme of Governance and Institutions with the University's China engagement plan. Responsive systems of governance are essential for economic growth, investor confidence and sustained development. The established international rules-based order, the effectiveness of global institutions and the role of regional bodies such as ASEAN also provide a regional dimension to this research theme. The University will seek to progress capacity-building projects and technical training in areas of interest or need to our Chinese counterparts.

The University of Melbourne's Asian Law Centre is a leader in China-relevant governance and institutional research. The Centre has driven research on projects such as administrative justice in China, dispute resolution in the Asia-Pacific region, Chinese competition law, and religious freedom. Research on governance and justice also includes projects on public policy, international relations, business, economics and education. The University of Melbourne's Faculty of Business and Economics and Centre for Asian Business and Economics have, for example, made valuable research contributions in areas such as Chinese monetary policy; corporate control effects and financial reporting quality; stock market liberalisation; and ownership structures in Hong Kong. The Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies has concentrated expertise in government financing and multi-disciplinary projects on urban and rural China, land and water.

### Supporting organisations' post-merger and acquisition integration

Since 2016 Asialink Business has worked closely with a leading Australian energy organisation that was acquired by a large Chinese state-owned enterprise. Asialink Business supported the organisation through its post-merger integration journey. A number of tailored capability-development programs were delivered for the business leadership team and corporate staff members in both Australia and China. These programs supported the two organisations by building knowledge of Chinese and Australian cultures, norms, and communication styles, and enhancing their capabilities to engage and collaborate more effectively.

In 2016 Asialink Business launched China Practice, a leading centre of excellence for practical business engagement with China. A hub of market-leading research, training, strategy and expertise, China Practice provides an unmatched offering for businesses seeking to understand the market, expand or grow in China.



The *Focus on China* program is delivered by the University of Melbourne's Student Success team to assist students returning to China find employment and build their careers, while at the same time broadening the University's partnerships with Chinese industry.



## THEME FOUR: HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Australia and China share concern for a range of critical health and wellbeing issues. These include ageing, mental health, public health policy, preventable diseases and the need to promote policies for healthier populations within and across their countries. The ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic underline the two countries' interconnectedness, shared vulnerabilities and the critical need to work together to develop lasting solutions. The Health and Wellbeing theme encompasses medical research, medical technology, public health, environmental impacts on public health, health education and training, health economics, medical law and ethics, and health related public policy.

In addition to the leading China-focussed research that has been conducted for many years by the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, the University of Melbourne's health-related research expands across disciplines as diverse as agriculture, veterinary science, public policy, business and economics, law and education.

The wide range of shared challenges in this theme will ensure it remains a priority for both governments and an area of ongoing growth and potential. The University's world class medical, public health and health science research program, the suite of cutting-edge medical research institutes, the strong China linkages and commitment to cross-disciplinary research uniquely positions the University of Melbourne as a partner of choice in this field.

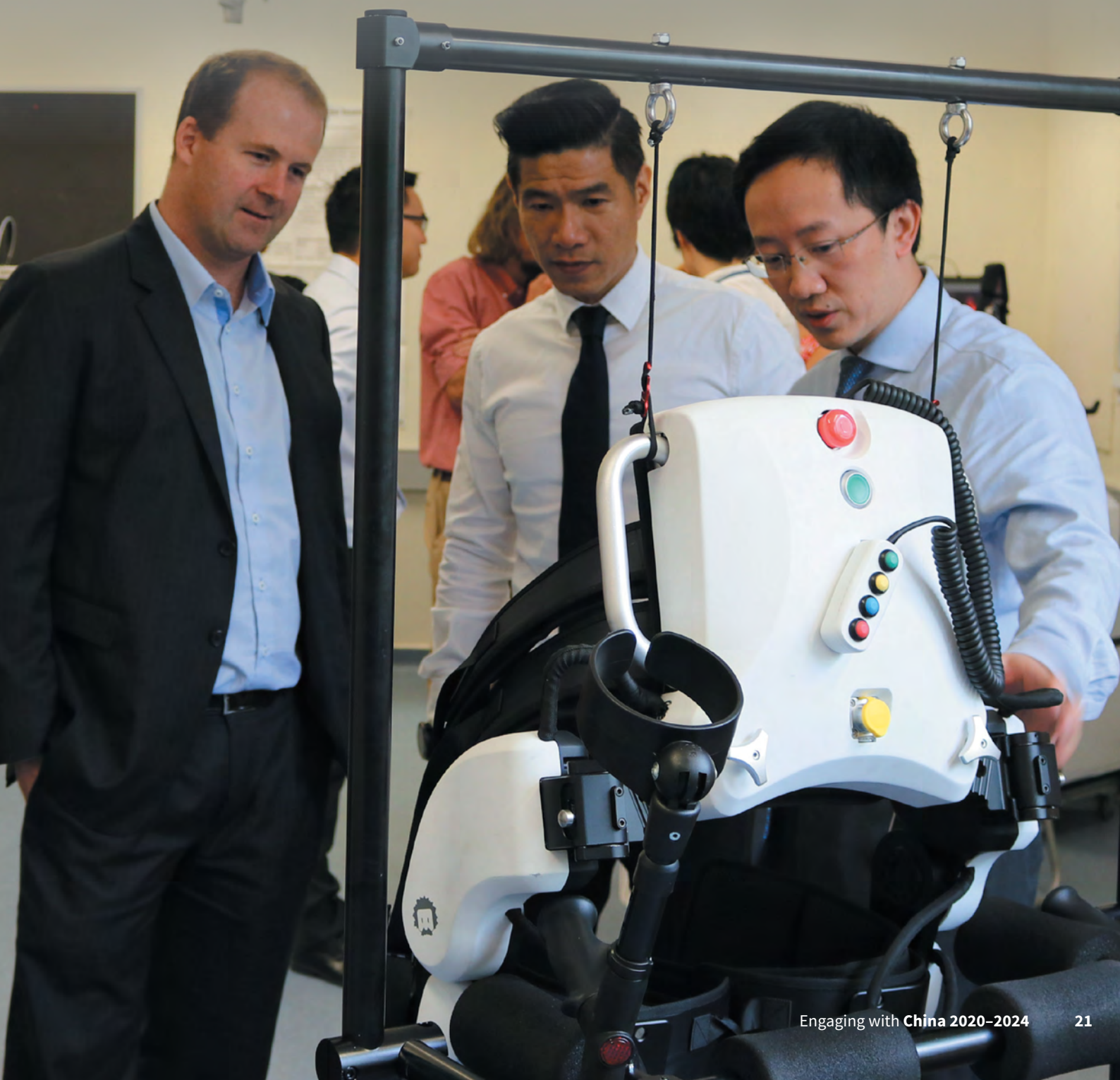
The University will build on a strong record of success in developing and driving health-focussed projects which have had a demonstrable impact in China and the region. An example is the Asia Pacific Research Accelerator (APRA), led by the University-affiliated Centre of Eye Research Australia, which brings Australian expertise to hospitals in the region to accelerate research development. To date, APRA has partnered with 14 Chinese hospitals to develop capability and clinical research.

### Technologies to assist with movement impairments and rehabilitation

Neurological conditions can limit physical mobility and capabilities. In July 2018, the Melbourne School of Engineering established a joint laboratory with Fourier Intelligence (Shanghai) with support from the Australian Research Council. The team carries out robotics research that develops technologies to assist people who have physical impairments to augment their capabilities. Projects underway at the laboratory include the Upper Limb Robotics Project focusing on retraining motor function after a neurological injury (such as a stroke), and the Lower Limb Robotics Project exploring the use of exoskeletons for both assistive and rehabilitative applications. A physical laboratory with rehabilitation facilities was opened in February 2019. The research undertaken by the joint laboratory has the capability to transform the lives of people living with a physical disability in Australia, China and beyond.



At the opening of the University of Melbourne-Fourier Intelligence Joint Research Laboratory on Assistive and Rehabilitation Robotics, Dean of Melbourne School of Engineering Professor Mark Cassidy (left), examines the lower limb exoskeleton robot for people who have spinal cord injuries with Fourier Intelligence's Chief Strategy Officer Mr Zen Koh (centre) and CEO Mr Alex Gu. Other partners in the project include the University of Melbourne's Department of Physiotherapy, consumer group AQA SPiRE (Australia Quadriplegic Association Spinal Injury Resource & Support Network), and the Melbourne Disability Institute.



## THEME FIVE: URBANISATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In terms of population, Australia and China differ widely. However, they share a pressing need to find more effective ways to accommodate an increasingly urbanised population and meet growing domestic infrastructure needs. The Urbanisation and Infrastructure theme is closely linked with Theme 2: Environment and Climate Change – finding 'smarter' ways to plan cities and deliver clean energy infrastructure, an essential to meeting the complex environmental challenges both countries face.

The work encompassed by this theme also has significant and ongoing potential to grow, with the challenges posed by increasing urbanisation, demographic change, ageing infrastructure and new technology unlikely to abate in the foreseeable future.

Existing University of Melbourne research projects into urbanisation and infrastructure include demographics and Chinese labour markets, communicative cities, planning global city regions and the impact of urban design and green transport infrastructure from disciplines including arts, architecture, business and economics, engineering and science.

The University is also exploring opportunities to collaborate with Chinese partners on research projects to find solutions to regional urbanisation, and infrastructure challenges facing the broader Asia and Pacific region.

### **Australia/China Research Network on Planning Global City-Regions**

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning

Established in 2015 with funding from the University of Melbourne and five partner Chinese universities (Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, Tongji University, Nanjing University and Chang'an University), the Australia-China Research Network was established with key Chinese partner institutions as a platform for researchers from Australia and China to exchange knowledge and ideas about global city-region research. At seminars held annually, researchers from participating universities present new research findings and initiatives, discuss student and staff exchange opportunities and develop collaborative grant applications. Selected presentations from the seminars are edited into a bilingual book titled *Healthy Future Cities*. Last year, the fourth annual Research Network seminar was hosted by Chang'an University focussing on infrastructure planning and development, in particular the complexities of inter and intra-metropolitan transportation on the city-region scale.



X-Ray the City 2046, an urban design studio at the University of Melbourne's Melbourne School of Design in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning works on developing urban environments where access to work, services and facilities can be reached by walking, at most, 20 minutes. And, by intersecting and merging buildings and creating more diverse species within the urban city system, looks to enable new hybrid typologies to arise, particularly in reformatted former corridor spaces. Examples include vertical farm and energy generators, drone operated capsule flowers and vegetable gardens, as well as apartment living with neighbourhood fish farms and aquariums.

Created by: Sophie Farmer and Bi Wang  
Studio Leader: Professor Justyna Karakiewicz



# SHARED FUTURE UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

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China is and will remain one of Australia's most important partners and neighbours. Our people-to-people, strategic and economic ties are enduring, and our futures will remain linked. The University of Melbourne's vision for our engagement with China over the next five years is ambitious and is grounded in a commitment to meaningful and mutually beneficial engagement.

The University's 2020–2024 China engagement plan is centred on one central ambition: to create value through innovation and education. This will be achieved by placing students at the heart of our community – including by adopting a capabilities and whole-of-life approach to the international student experience – and by confronting global challenges together through innovative research collaborations.

The University will seek to heighten the impact of research collaborations and partnerships with Chinese institutions by placing them within a broader regional and global perspective, through the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The University will work to ensure that necessary enabling mechanisms and structures are in place.

The University's China engagement plan, in conjunction with strategies for Indonesia and India, demonstrates our long-term commitment to meaningful engagement with the broader Asia and Pacific region. The University looks to a future of unlimited potential: one where solutions to shared challenges are sought from innovative research, enduring people-to-people links, and mutually beneficial collaborations with international partners across research, teaching and learning and engagement activities.

The University of Melbourne believes this is merely the beginning of the next phase of its engagement with China – one which builds on a long history of collaboration and lays the foundation for an even more beneficial, comprehensive and sustainable partnership.





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