



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# 2025 McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships Scheme Information Webinar

19 February 2024

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.



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# Panellists

## **Prof. Kate Smith-Miles**

### **Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability)**

Melbourne Laureate Professor of Applied Mathematics in the School of Mathematics and Statistics.

Director of the ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Optimisation Technologies, Integrated Methodologies and Applications (OPTIMA).



## **Kelly Farrow**

Associate Director, Research Capability  
Chancellery Research and Enterprise

## **Dr Tamica Grant**

Team leader, Researcher Development Schemes (RDS) team, RIC

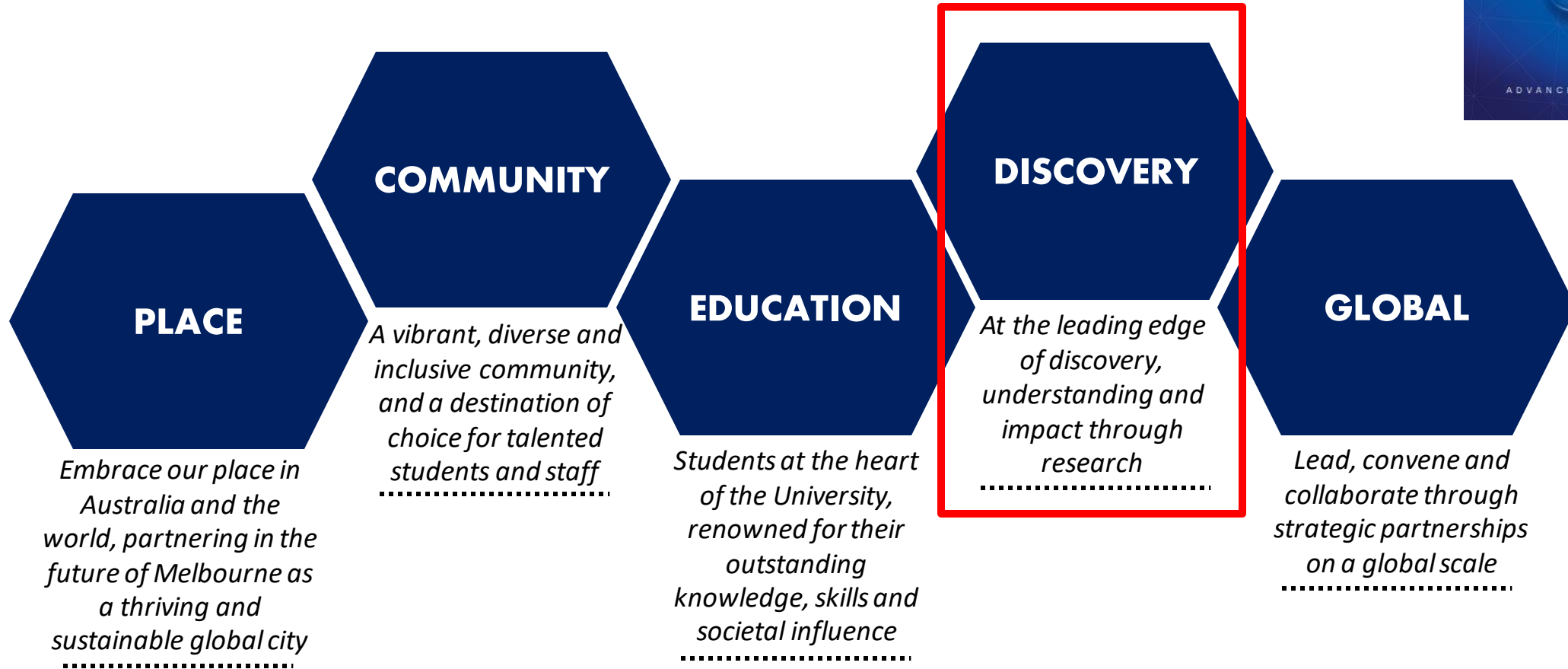
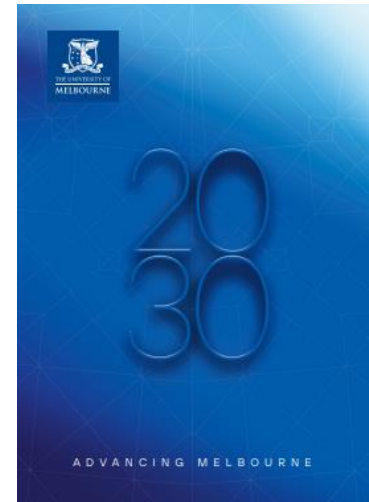


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# McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships

Setting the institutional and strategic context

# Advancing Melbourne (2020-2030)



**Five intersecting themes will represent our key focus areas over the next decade**

# Advancing Melbourne Discovery

## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact

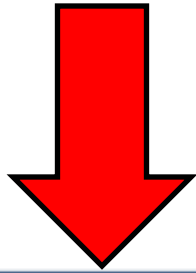


### *Principles of Research at Melbourne*

- *Research excellence and impact are our primary indicators of success*
- *Academic freedom is paramount. Academics determine their own research path and are supported by opportunities from faculty and institutional strategy*
- *Basic research is a critical foundation for discovery and understanding*
- *We work with collaborators and partners to amplify the global impact of our research*
- *Research is conducted to the highest ethical standards with integrity and openness. This value is embedded in every aspect of our work, including in our choices of research partners and collaborators*
- *Research is integrated with the education of all our students, fostering of a spirit of enquiry and ongoing renewal of research ideas*

# Advancing Melbourne Discovery

## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact





# Researcher Development



- **Research Capability**

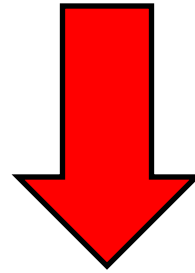
- Early Career Researcher Grants
- Postdoctoral Fellowships (McKenzie, Puzey, Mary Lugton, etc.)
- Research Continuity Grants
- ARC/NHMRC Fellowship salary gap supports
- Researcher Development Unit (RDU)

- **Research Quality**

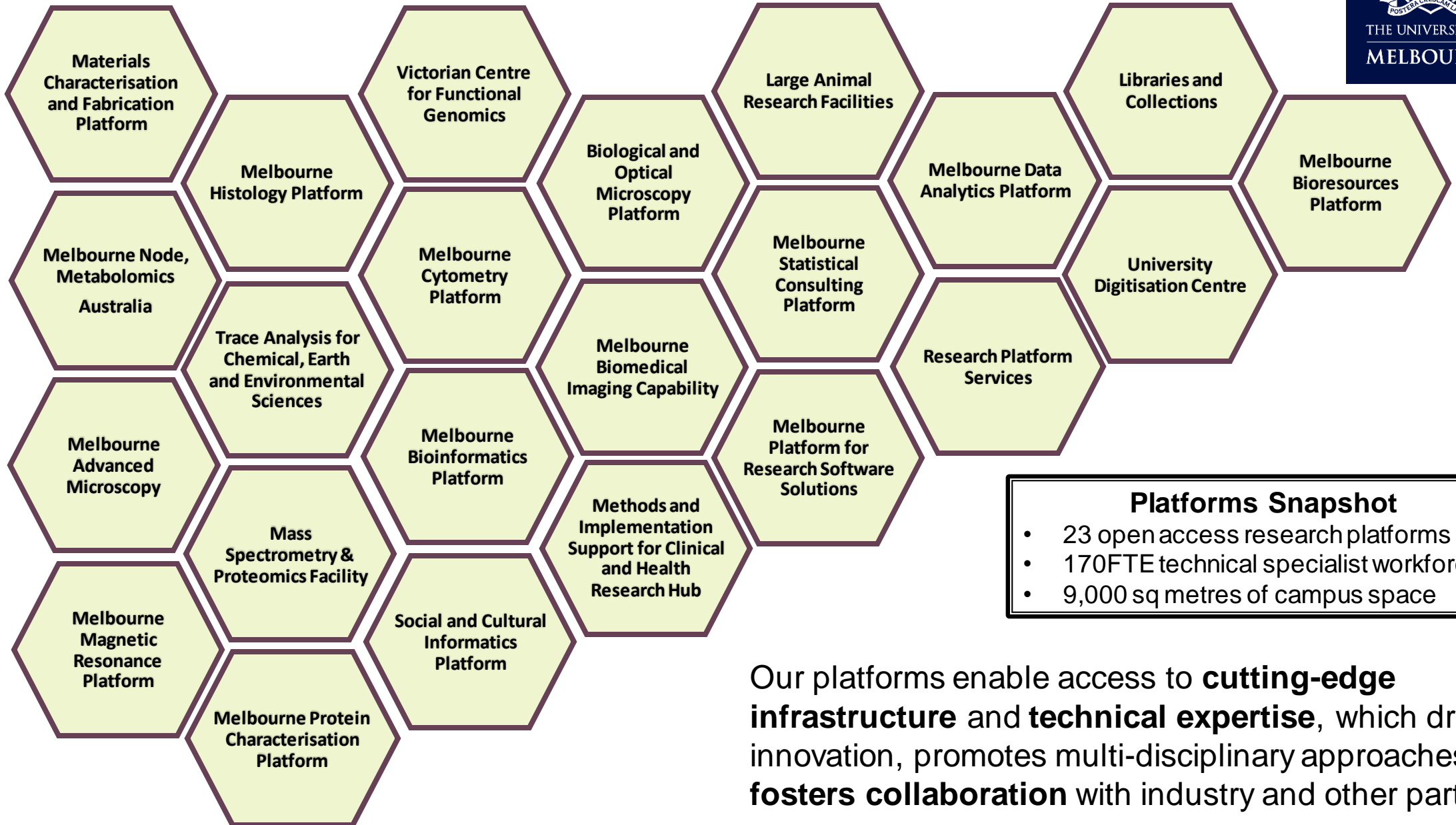
- Mock ARC-style panel reviews from UoM College of Experts
- National Interest Test (NIT) statement workshops
- Strategic targeted support (e.g. grant writing assistance)

# Advancing Melbourne Discovery

## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact



# Research Infrastructure Platforms



## Platforms Snapshot

- 23 open access research platforms
- 170FTE technical specialist workforce
- 9,000 sq metres of campus space

Our platforms enable access to **cutting-edge infrastructure** and **technical expertise**, which drives innovation, promotes multi-disciplinary approaches and **fosters collaboration** with industry and other partners.

# Research Precincts



**Fisherman's Bend**-Engineering and design innovation

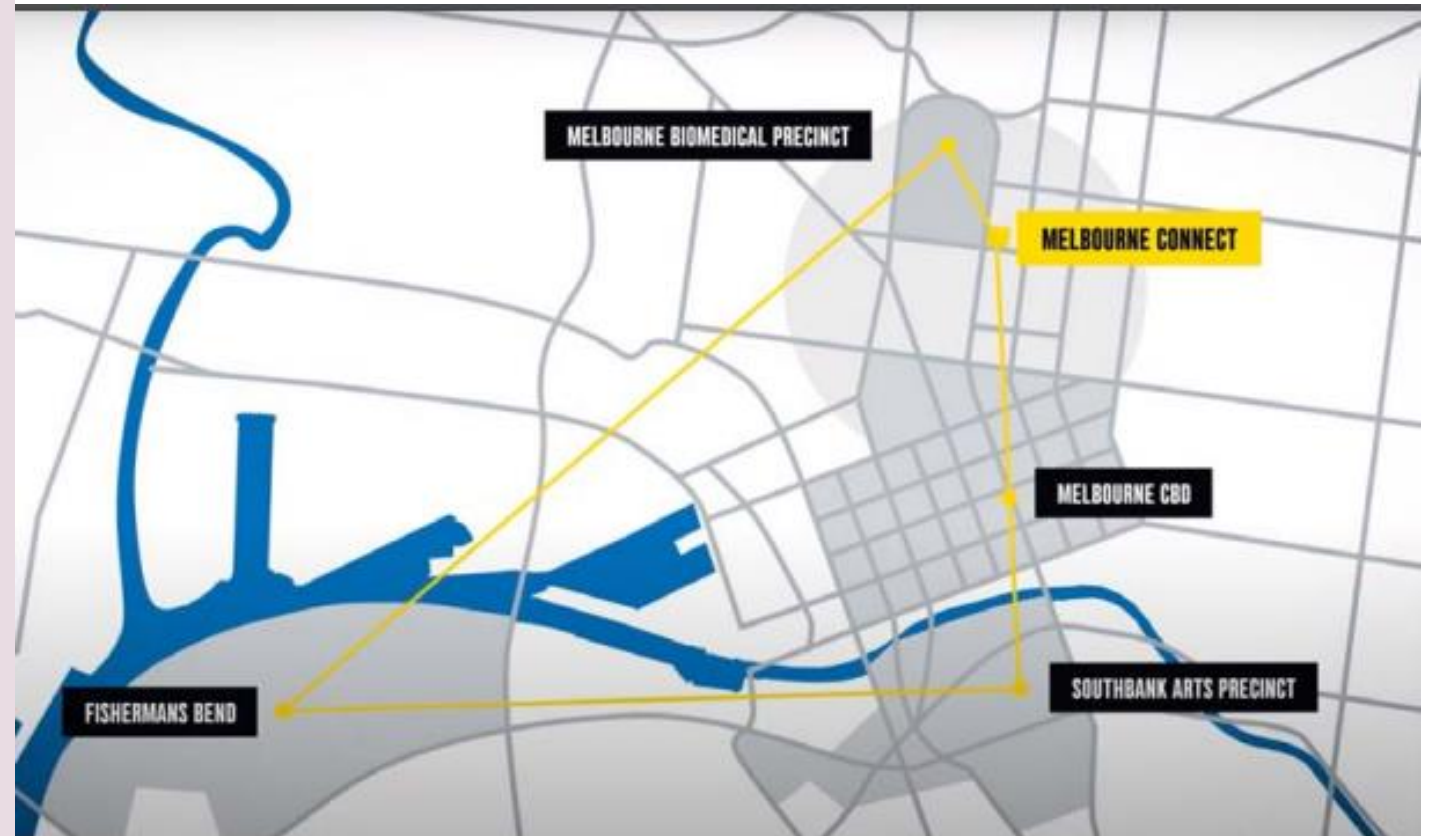
**Melbourne Arts Precinct**-Cultural and creative partnerships

**Melbourne City Council**-Sustainable Cities Partnership

**Melbourne Biomedical Precinct**-AIID, ACMD, Burnet move, CSL bioincubator, BioCurate

**Melbourne Connect**-digital innovation, industry links and Cremorne digital hub

**Dookie** - NorVic Food and drought hub



# Melbourne Interdisciplinary Research Institutes

Ambitious ideas. Collaboration. Local and global expertise. Solving the big challenges together.

# Hallmark Research Initiatives

Addressing significant local and global challenges that cannot be solved by one discipline alone.

**Melbourne Disability Institute**  
**Melbourne Energy Institute**  
**Melbourne Social Equity Institute**  
**Melbourne Climate Futures**  
**Indigenous Knowledge Institute**  
**Peter McMullin Centre**  
**on Statelessness**

**Many other affiliated Research Institutes**  
**(e.g. Doherty, Bio21, WEHI, Peter Mac, St Vincents, etc.)**

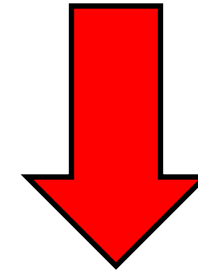
**Affordable Housing**  
**Anti-Racism**  
**Bioinspiration**  
**Creativity and**  
**Wellbeing**  
**Future Food**  
**Indonesia Democracy**  
**Wildfire Futures**  
**Work Futures**

**Ageing**  
**Children's Lives**  
**Computational**  
**Biology**  
**Disability**  
**Economic and**  
**Social Participation**  
**Indigenous**  
**Materials**  
**Statelessness**



# Advancing Melbourne Discovery

## Ensuring Research Excellence and Impact



# Research Impact at Melbourne

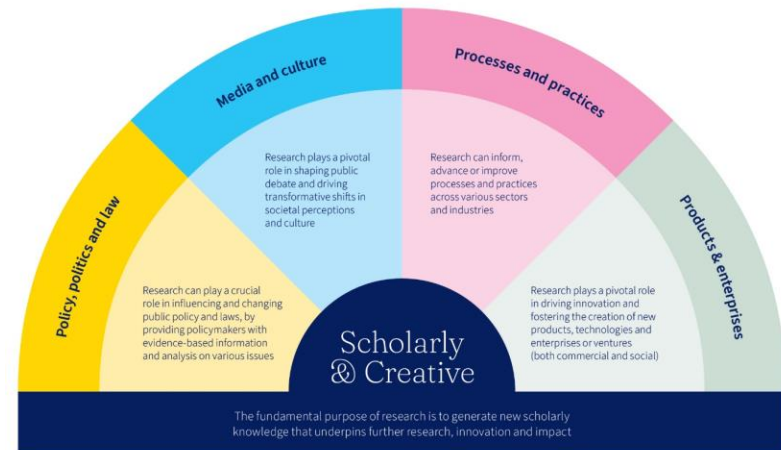


“The University defines research impact as the effect on, change or benefit to scholarly knowledge and the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life.”

- Our *Research Impact Framework (2021)* builds and supports a culture of research impact
  - The framework was designed to be broad and inclusive, and to address the needs of diverse disciplines and approaches.
  - It considers all career stages and encompasses different pathways to impact.



# Facets of research impact



## Facet

## Aim

## What is valued?

Scholarly and Creative

Advance knowledge and ways of knowing

Peer judgement, prestige, rigour, expertise

Policy, Politics and Law

Improve politics, policy and governance

Policy attention, recommendations, improved policy outcomes

Media and Culture

Facilitate public debate, perceptions and culture

Accessibility, broad reach, visibility, creativity and performance

Processes and Practice

Improve processes and practice

Recommendations and guidance, improved practices, processes, implementation

Products and Enterprises

Facilitate economic resource generation

Contribution to economic system

# An ecosystem of support across the University



## Local (Faculties)

- Faculty research office (School, Department)
- Graduate Research support
- Discipline-specific supports
- Research Integrity Advisors

## Whole of University Support: Chancellery – Chief Operating Officer Portfolio

- Research support services, including Legal & Risk, candidature mgt, etc.
- Communications and marketing
- Library and scholarly services
- Specialised research platforms and support

## Whole of Uni Support: Chancellery – Research and Enterprise

- Inter-disciplinary and cross-faculty research
- Cohort support and researcher development schemes (e.g. ECR grants)
- Strategic / co-investment
- Committee of Associate Deans Research, Committee of Graduate Research Associate Deans





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# McKenzie Postdoctoral Fellowships

**Scheme guidelines, forms and  
application process**



# Scheme overview and guidelines

<https://sites.research.unimelb.edu.au/research-funding/researcher-development-schemes/mckenzie-fellowship>

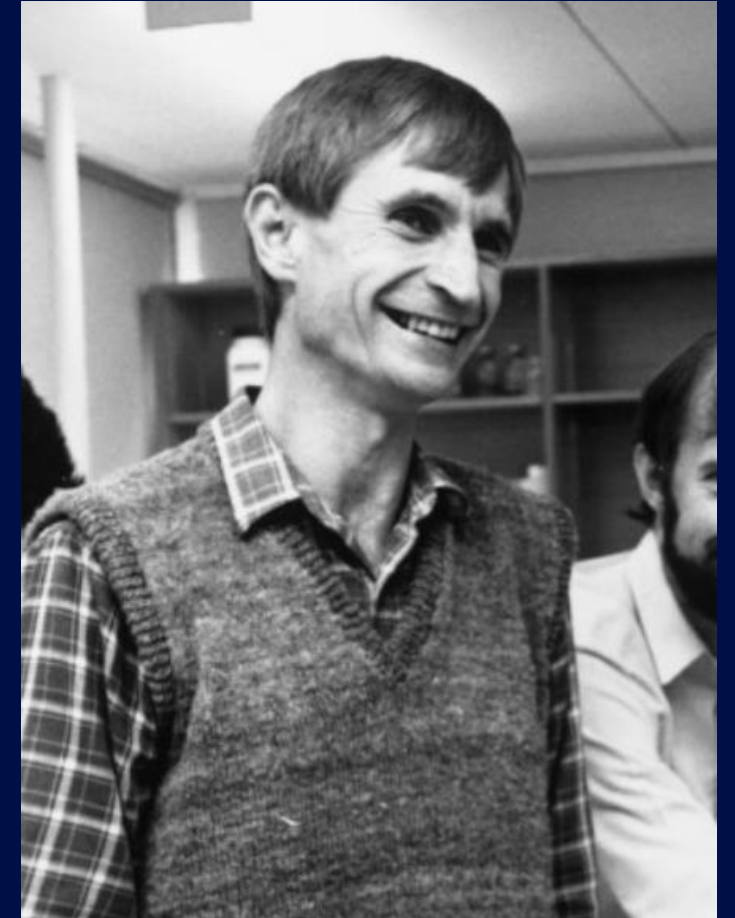
For application round in 2024:

Up to 16 fellowships (commencing 2025) of 3 years (A.6 at 1.0 FTE) in any field of research, and \$25,000 project funds.

- Open to internal UoM and external applicants

Two-stage process:

- Expression of Interest (EOI) (*assessed by Faculty Committees*), and
- Shortlisted applicants invited to submit Full Application (*assessed by a central Selection Committee*).



# Key dates

EOIs and Full Applications are to be completed via the University of Melbourne's SmartyGrants Portal.



- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 8 March (3pm): | EOI (& Eligibility Exemption Request (EER) if relevant) and Endorsement Declaration due |
| 7 May:         | EOI outcomes released;<br>Full application opens  |
| 14 June (3pm): | Full applications due & referee testimonials (letters) due via email                    |
| ~ Sept 2024:   | Fellowship offers   |

# Indigenous McKenzie fellowship/s



- Aims to attract to the University or retain outstanding postdoctoral researchers, including high-calibre early career researchers from Australia or overseas who identify as Indigenous.
- This includes First Nations Peoples of Australia and other indigenous peoples worldwide.

# Eligibility



- PhD in any discipline from a University in any country, including Australia and the University of Melbourne.
- Applicants should have completed the requirements for the award of their PhD degree no earlier than **1 February 2021** (i.e., the applicant has had no more than three years of scholarly research opportunity post-PhD).
- Applicants must not have previously held a McKenzie or Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- Must be able to commence fellowship between 1/1/25 and 30/6/25

# Eligibility Exemption Request (EER) process



- If PhD was awarded on or **before 31 January 2021** and can demonstrate **career interruption/s or disrupted capacity** to undertake research that have limited your **scholarly research opportunity** post-PhD to be effectively three years or less.
- See criteria for career interruptions in section 4 of the guidelines
- McKenzie Career interruption calculator tool (*see scheme website*)
- Exceptional circumstances EER
- EERs will be assessed by a subcommittee in late March and outcomes advised to Faculty ranking committees



# Academic Contact and Endorsement Declaration

Early step – confirm your Academic Contact at the University of Melbourne

- Use your existing networks or the University’s ‘Find an Expert’ search tool to find academics in your field.
- Assist with completing and signing the Endorsement Declaration along with HOD/ADR (**this form is due as part of the EOI**)
- It is Academic Contact’s responsibility to email the completed Endorsement Declaration (with HOD/HOS signature) to RIC **by the EOI deadline.**
- Remain as fellows’ regular point of contact and either provide informal mentoring or assist fellow to find a mentor.

# EOI form

The EOI Form consists of 6 parts:

- Part A: Administrative Summary
- Part B: Education and Appointment Details
- Part C-1: Project Summary (2 pages, uploaded as a PDF) (*see template on the scheme's website*)
- Part D-1: Indicative budget
- Part E: Track Record and Strategic Alignment
- Part F-1: Support of Academic Contact and Head of Dept/School (*see Endorsement Declaration form on the website*)

# Application Form

(If invited to make a full application)

The full Application Form is an extension to the EOI and consists of three additional parts:

- Part C-2: Project Description (7 pages, uploaded as a PDF)  
*(see template on scheme website)*
- Part D-2: Detailed Budget
- Part F-2: Reference letters x 2

# Selection Process

- Full Applications are assessed on a competitive basis by a Committee of senior University academics from a diverse range of disciplines, who were not involved in Faculty ranking.
- Any mix of fellowship awards per faculty based on strength of applications = no set number.
- Recommends fellowship awards to the DVCR – announced in approx. September 2024.
- Chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Capability).

# Tips for success

- Use plain, succinct, compelling language (road test this with friends!)
- Demonstrate academic excellence and achievement, relative to opportunity
- Show how your research is unique, fills a demonstrable gap (that you can convincingly fill)
- Show strategic alignment (*look at Advancing Melbourne 2030, and your faculty's research strategy, consider links with UoM/precinct research infrastructure, or Hallmark Research Initiatives and interdisciplinary centres*)
- Show how you will build research connections in the University, and externally
- Articulate a well-considered research program that has potential to attract further funding.
- Show your leadership capabilities in research (e.g. GR supervision, professional societies, conferences).
- Articulate your proposed impact. Research objectives have specific, purposeful and measurable outcomes (distinguish 'outcomes' from 'outputs')



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Questions?





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# Thank you



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