



Melbourne Centre  
for Cities

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**the MELBOURNE CENTRE for CITIES**  
CENTRE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM





## MELBOURNE CENTRE FOR CITIES ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

Role description and affiliation outline for Associates.

### **Centre mission and purpose**

Cities are on the frontline of today's most pressing global challenges. The way we manage and study cities, and how city leadership is thought of in an interconnected but disrupted world, are critical to our collective futures. This is where the University of Melbourne's new Melbourne Centre for Cities comes in with an explicit focus on urban governance as its main area of research, action and training, and a distinct purpose to foster and foreground cities research in and from Melbourne with a clear cosmopolitan outlook. The Centre focuses on the role of cities in major societal challenges, how city leadership can address them, and the information needed to do so in a connected but also disrupted and unequal time. The Centre takes an explicit international point of view on pressing questions for urban governance. It does so by aiming to work with peers and places around the globe, explicitly connecting cities, urban researchers and key stakeholders in city leadership. Engagement by University of Melbourne staff with the Centre is foreseen to be both formal and informal. Formalised University of Melbourne faculty staff engagement in its academic life is achieved through both the Centre's Fellowship and the broader Associates program.

### **Purpose of the role:**

Centre Associates are University of Melbourne staff who hold a role appointed outside the Melbourne Centre for Cities and that are recognized to formally engage in the Centre's academic life as the broader community of friends of the Centre that uphold its mission and activities across campus. They often represent the Centre's champions in their respective academic divisions and are active participants in the Centre's community, whilst being engaged in a more light touch manner than Centre Fellows who dedicate a specific section of their working time to Centre duties. They operate within the specifics of their underpinning role's responsibilities compliant as per University and host Faculty guidance. They are recognized in Centre materials and activities and can access Centre offices and career development programs. Centre Associates, have are provided by the Centre with a variety of support and activities and are in turn expected to play a part in its work and development. Associates can access Centre development programs (for early career academics) or bespoke workshop sessions (e.g. centre seminar series) along with playing an active part in organising faculty forums and university symposia, facilitated external and international engagements, and more.

### **Key responsibilities**

1. Engage explicitly in a defined area of Centre expertise, working with Centre Fellows to advance that dimension of cities research and connect it to other streams of research and teaching through the Centre
2. Champion the activities of the Centre and more broadly cities research within their home academic divisions at the University of Melbourne.
3. Take active part in the regular activities hosted by the Centre and play a convening role in those that are outward facing within or outside the University.

### **Role requirements**

A Centre Associate role entails a formal affiliation with the Melbourne Centre for Cities for a continuing or fixed-term academic staff member of the University of Melbourne not already appointed or committed formally through the Centre (i.e. "Centre Fellows"). Appointment to Centre Associate is for 1 year in duration in the first instance, renewable, through two regular windows for expression of interest to the Centre (Winter and Summer). Centre Associates have varying commitments to Centre activities but are all equally required to take active part in:

1. a once-a-term forum for Centre Associates and staff,
2. annual all-staff activities (e.g. the 'Cities @ Melbourne' symposium, Centre annual retreat)
3. and other bespoke events/engagements as per reasonably determined with Centre management and collaborating Centre programs and Fellows.