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.
Welcome to Advancement! I hope that once you have read through this pack that you will want to join what I think is one of the friendliest, most supportive teams I have had the privilege of working with. I love working here.

I get to work with a group of passionate, creative and dynamic individuals who are committed to supporting each other and the communities we serve. People are at the heart of everything we do, whether they are the students supported through scholarships, academics whose world-changing research we help to fund or the exceptional colleagues we get to work with every day.

We have big ambitions as we look ahead to our next campaign. We know that we can exceed the extraordinary success of the Believe Campaign and are looking for people like you to help deliver on that ambition and impact.

We want to represent the student body we support, the donor and alumni constituency we engage with, and the incredible city of Melbourne so we are committed to building a diverse team.

If you are attracted by the scale of our ambition, the excellence of our campaign and the opportunity to play a big part in making our plans a reality, we’d love to hear from you.

Nick Blinco
Vice-President
(Advancement, Communications and Marketing)
Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the position of Senior Donor Relations Manager (Principal Gifts).

We believe this is a unique and exciting opportunity to work in a leading Principal Gifts and Donor Relations function within Australia and we hope you will feel compelled to apply after reading the candidate information!

We’re Advancement at Melbourne, and we believe that passionate people make an impact and inspire others to make a difference for the greater good. What we are doing at the University of Melbourne in the Principal Gifts space is innovative, cutting-edge, and transformative. We welcome your fresh insights to expand on this great work.

We are looking for our next Senior Donor Relations Manager (Principal Gifts) who will lead the stewardship and donor relations for the University’s most generous and transformative donors. This senior role within the Donor Relations team will work in close collaboration with the Principal Gifts Team. The role will carry a portfolio of our most generous donors, planning and executing bespoke engagement and ‘surprise and delight’ experiences to bring the heart to the donor experience, and drive strategy, creativity and practice leadership for principal gift stewardship and ensure quality control across touchpoints.

Our team is a place where we lift, support, and challenge each other to be our best. We always look to innovate, collaborate and think creatively about the mission of the University. We aim to work at the cutting edge of philanthropy for research and education, and are seeking entrepreneurial and diverse mindsets to help us achieve this.

Research informs us that marginalised communities and women hold back if they don’t meet 100% of the criteria, while men usually apply after meeting about 60%. Even if you don’t tick every box, please get in contact. We would love to have a conversation with you. Please advise us if you have access needs at any stage of the recruitment process. And, if you need to work more flexibly than the traditional 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday, we are open to discussing more flexible ways of working. Please let us know if this is something you’d like to explore as we are open to considering your needs.

Regards,

Megan McPherson
Director, Donor Relations
At the University of Melbourne, we believe that interesting people with different backgrounds make us stronger.
Philanthropy and Engagement

A career in Advancement at the University of Melbourne means supporting research and education that changes lives. If you are looking to pivot into something meaningful and mission-driven, we’re interested in you.

We are a team of 120+ who raise major philanthropic gifts from alumni and non-alumni sources, and encourage lifelong relationships between the University, its alumni and its supporters. We ensure that our global community of more than 500,000 alumni is informed about developments within the University and equipped to be effective ambassadors, volunteers and advocates.

Great things happen at the University of Melbourne because of the work we do. It could be finding a new treatment for cancer, building innovative solutions to the climate crisis or creating scholarships for widening participation. Everyone in our Advancement office plays an important role in making this happen. And while we are the number one university in Australia and a global leader, we are equally renowned as a welcoming place – somewhere you will want to stay and grow.

Our office is a stimulating and supportive place to work. Driven by the desire to make a difference, we encourage our teams to be ambitious and bold, to stretch themselves and not be afraid to try something new. So much of what we do is about building and nurturing relationships – whether that be with each other, with colleagues across the University or with our alumni and donors – which is why integrity is at the heart of how we work.

We enjoy each other’s company and find opportunities to have fun, during and after work hours, through activities such as our Advancement Book Club, First Thursday drinks, Daily Quiz rounds and a weekly morning tea get-together.

Philanthropy at the University of Melbourne

From its foundation in 1853, the University of Melbourne has benefited from generous philanthropic support from alumni, staff, parents and friends. Philanthropy and alumni engagement are built into the fabric of the University - philanthropy changes lives here.

The University is committed to philanthropy, recognising that it brings major benefits to future generations - not only scholars, students and alumni, but of nations and communities everywhere.

These benefits range from the expansion of cutting-edge research to giving students access to the very best in teaching and learning, to supporting and strengthening the arts. Increasingly, the impact goes well beyond the University into Australian and global communities.

We have recently completed, Believe, the most successful higher education fundraising campaign in Australian history. The campaign raised more than $1 billion from nearly 30,000 donors, engaging over 100,000 alumni. Read more about Believe here: Giving power to possibility - Alumni, University of Melbourne.

Philanthropy remains at the heart of our most ambitious objectives, and of the University’s 2030 Advancing Melbourne strategic plan. The engagement of our alumni and friends will be critical to the thriving life of the University.
The position

We are recruiting for the role of Senior Donor Relations Manager (Principal Gifts) to join our successful and rapidly expanding Advancement team.

The Donor Relations team is part of the Development team within the University of Melbourne Advancement unit. The Donor Relations Team is responsible for the development and implementation of the University’s Donor Relations strategy and activities. As a shared service, the Donor Relations team designs and delivers individual and cohort-based donor engagement activities and programs with the objective to inspire donors to give more generously and more often, in line with the priorities and objectives of the associated fundraising programs. The team is responsible for a pan-University service model for donor engagement across the pillars of gift acknowledgement, recognition, engagement, and impact communications and reporting, to enable an outstanding and consistent experience for all philanthropic supporters of the University.

Reporting to the Director, Donor Relations, this position leads the stewardship and donor relations for the University’s most generous and transformative donors. These are supporters with the capacity and interest to make gifts of $5M or more, whose philanthropy inspires significant and powerful societal change through the University.

This senior role within the Donor Relations team will work in close collaboration with the Principal Gifts Team and drive strategy and creativity for the engagement of the University’s most significant philanthropic supporters. The role will carry a portfolio of our most generous donors, planning and executing bespoke engagement and ‘surprise and delight’ experiences to bring the heart to the donor experience, and drive practice leadership for principal gift stewardship and ensure quality control across touchpoints.
Job description: Key duties and responsibilities

Role
Senior Donor Relations Manager (Principal Gifts)

Location
Parkville Campus, Melbourne, Australia

Salary
Professional salary classification UOM 9 $139,693 - $145,339
Plus employer superannuation contribution of 17%

Hours of work
For staff under the Enterprise Agreement the standard working week is 36.25 hours which equates to 7.25 hours per day. The standard hours of work for a full-time staff member are 8:45 am to 5:00 pm with an hour for lunch but this pattern can be varied with agreement from the Senior Director.

Direct budget accountability
Nil

Direct reports
Nil

Key internal relationships
This role has a high level of autonomy and there must be a close and trusted working relationship with the following:

- Donor Relations Team
- Principal Gifts team
- Relationship Management team
- Advancement and University Leadership

Length of employment:
Permanent

Reports to
Director, Donor Relations
Core Accountabilities:

We are looking for someone who can:

- Drive strategy and practice leadership for principal gift stewardship and ensure quality control across all touchpoints.
- Work collaboratively with the Relationship Management team during the solicitation stage to develop a deep understanding of donors and affiliated members of the prospect group, building insights into their values, preferences and motivations, to shape a bespoke and meaningful approach to stewardship engagement.
- Develop multi-year engagement plans for principal gift donors, ensuring these are visible to key internal stakeholders with tasks tracked within the OneCRM system. These plans will bridge both stewardship and cultivation, integrate across all areas that a donor may support, and be highly customised to the donor/s and their future giving potential.
- Conduct periodic reviews of the plans with primary relationship managers, to ensure we are continuing to meet donor expectations, if not exceed them.
- Work collaboratively with Strategic Communications, Events and the recipient division of the donation to plan the appropriate approach for gift announcement and celebrations.

- In close collaboration with the Relationship Management team and donor relations colleagues, lead on the planning and execution of the bespoke donor relations initiatives (videos, tours, reports, events and experiences), engaging the support from Advancement Events and Communications & Marketing as required.
- Provide expert advice to internal stakeholders within Advancement and across the University regarding donor relations, stewardship programs, recognition protocols and relevant University policies relating to donors and gifts.
- Ensure a seamless transition from gift acquisition to gift and donor stewardship with fundraising staff, the Gift Operations team and appropriate university staff.
- As a senior member of the Donor Relations team, contribute to donor relations strategy and the development of stewardship frameworks and protocols, in line with strategic priorities and fundraising initiatives.
- Undertake effective data management using the University’s CRM and coordinate system reporting requirements with relevant staff members in the Operations team to track, monitor and report on stewardship Competencies required.
Competencies required:

Education/Qualifications

- The appointee will have: a tertiary level qualification in any discipline with significant relevant work experience; or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education and training.

Skills and Experience:

- Experience in the strategic development and delivery of donor, membership, loyalty or stakeholder relations programs.
- Demonstrated ability to formulate, develop and implement ideas to achieve outcomes that nurture and deepen relationships with donors / members / stakeholders / clients.
- An understanding of the principles of and current best practice in donor or constituent relations and its relationship to fundraising, preferably in an education environment.
- Demonstrated strategic thinking and stakeholder management skills.
- Outstanding written communication and interpersonal skills, appropriate to dealing with stakeholders and supporters including donors, volunteers and friends of the University.
- Close attention to detail and exceptionally high standards of accuracy of work with the ability to follow through and ensure deliverables are completed to the highest standard.
- A high level of drive and initiative with the ability to manage competing tasks with deadlines.
- Demonstrated experience in achieving goals and objectives in a collaborative manner across a large organization and building and maintaining positive relationships with both internal and external stakeholders.
- Experience with complex reports, data analysis and the ability to use data and insights to inform strategy.
- A strong understanding of and demonstrated track record of working with complex CRMs.

Desirable

- Demonstrated understanding of philanthropic issues and knowledge of the Australian and international philanthropic sectors.
- Experience in a university/tertiary environment.

Other job-related information:

- This position requires the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.
- Willingness to work flexible hours, especially in relation to attending after hours donor events.
Working in Advancement

Our vision – partnering for impact
Advancement is a catalyst that leads to positive impact on the University, the city, the state, Australia and the world.

Our mission
We do this in deep and genuine partnership with our generous alum, supporters and academic colleagues.

We are in partnership with:
- Academic and professional colleagues to identify, curate, hone and present philanthropic and engagement opportunities that support our researchers, teachers and students and the spaces in which they live and work
- Donors to match and connect these opportunities to their passions
- Alum, friends and current students to develop mutual and lifelong benefit by sharing skills, expertise and networks

Our guiding principles
- We are ‘One Advancement’ working together towards collective goals
- We are driven both by University strategies and the opportunities presented by our supporters’ passions
- We strive for outcomes through strong partnerships that deliver impact – both with University colleagues and with our community stakeholders
- We create opportunities for the University to come together with supporters to make a difference in the world and benefit the communities with whom we engage
- We build enduring, purposeful relationships that are stakeholder-centric and mutually beneficial
- Our decision-making and resource allocation are based on expert knowledge, research insights and data
- We recognise the impact of both financial and non-financial contributions
- We operate sustainably at both the organisational and personal levels

Our values
Our work is guided by our values:
- **Integrity** – we are honest, trustworthy, understanding and sincere
- **Collaboration** – we are supportive of each other and work as a team toward improved collective outcomes
- **Innovation** – we prize creativity and act with courage to progress our objectives
- **Professionalism** – we are committed, focused, accountable, respectful and proud of the work we do

We encourage the following behaviours
- Don’t go it alone – explore and exchange expertise, knowledge and institutional memory with colleagues across Advancement
- Be willing to innovate and test new approaches
- Support each other to think, speak and act courageously in pursuit of the best outcomes
- Be responsive and decisive taking both personal and collective accountability
- Prioritise based on our strategic direction and purpose

“The University of Melbourne’s Advancement team welcomes diversity in thinking, ideas and practices in everything we do. Here you will find a culture of warmth and belonging. We support each other to be the best we can be and want every employee to feel valued, respected and heard.”
Senior Donor Relations Manager (Principal Gifts), Advancement
Our benefits are above and beyond

Advancement at the University of Melbourne believes in work-life balance. That’s why we offer flexible working, generous superannuation and leave for holidays, parental responsibilities and caring duties. Because you can’t do a good job if your job is all you do.

Annual leave
Staff receive four weeks of paid annual leave for every 12 months, and two weeks of paid sick leave per year. This can accrue if unused.

Superannuation - you’re right, it is 17% p.a.
UniSuper is the super fund of choice for most staff in higher education. We pay 17% per annum (the standard general super guarantee in Australia is 11.0% [rising to 11.5% as of July 2024]).

Note: For Senior Manager and Executive Directors, the University is able to provide flexibility for you to nominate the amount contributed on your behalf as the SG – you can choose between the higher 17% or the prevailing SG rate.

Retirement age - there isn’t one!
There is no formal retirement age for staff working at the University.

Salary packaging - we can help reduce your taxable income
Salary packaging means using pre-tax dollars to pay for goods and services, thereby reducing your taxable income at the end of the year. You can salary sacrifice everything from childcare, your gym membership and additional superannuation to subscriptions to the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Work flexibility - work from home and join us in the office for 60% of the time
You will have the opportunity to work from home for up to 40% of your working week. And we have been recognised as an employer of choice for women. Join us in office for the remaining 60% of your working week. The hybrid working arrangements for staff are currently renegotiated on an annual basis with line managers.

Our commitment to your professional development
Advancement has its own professional development program called ADVANtage. This trains and supports staff at all levels. There are also a number of communities of practice that bring staff together from around the University and allied shared services.

If you are new to working in higher education or the Advancement space you will be guided and supported throughout your induction process.

Other benefits
We have several car parks available for staff at reduced rates. You can elect to salary sacrifice or pay on a casual basis per day. If you ride, we have plenty of places for you to lock your bike safely under cover and showers are available in the Advancement office.

Parental and maternity leave
Having a child? (Including adoption and surrogacy)
We have some of the most generous entitlements in the country for new parents, including adoption and surrogacy. You will receive 26 weeks of parental leave from the start of your employment. We also have a 10-day paid special leave if you cannot reasonably perform work due to significant menstruation, menopause or chronic ongoing health issues.

Keeping fit
We have a state of the art gym, an indoor swimming pool, tennis courts and fitness classes so you can stay fit before or after work.

Compassionate Leave
Three days of compassionate leave is granted per occasion (immediately family) and if a child is stillborn, or where the staff member (or the staff member’s spouse or de facto partner) has a miscarriage.

Working with Children Check
A valid WWCC is mandatory for employment at the University. The university will cover the cost of obtaining the check from the 30 May, 2024. This applies to all fixed term, casual and permanent staff.
Equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion

The University of Melbourne is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit.

Advancement play a leading role in the University when it comes to Diversity and Inclusion (D&I). We have an active D&I committee, where we embed our principles and practices. This commitment is set out in the University’s Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2030 and policies that address diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that differences in our race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University. This will help to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to strive for excellence and reach the targets of the University’s Advancing Melbourne strategy.
How to Apply

Please send us your resume and cover letter telling us why the role interests you and how your skills and experience align with the position.

If you would like to learn more about the role, please contact Megan McPherson on +61 9035 5817 or via email megan.mcpherson@unimelb.edu.au

Advancement at the University of Melbourne is a place you can grow. And your development is our priority. So, if you’re looking for an organisation that cares about your growth and development, invests in training, and helps you learn and progress, join us!

Thank you for your consideration
UniMelb On-Demand

Get to know us better in your own time