Creating Futures

Leaving a gift in your Will to the University of Melbourne
The contribution the University makes to the world is influenced by all those who want to see Melbourne flourish as a great university. Gifts in Wills have been fundamental to the University’s development. Many of our campus buildings, professorial chairs, research programs, scholarships and bursaries were established by our founding fathers and mothers, and the generations of benefactors who have followed in their footsteps.

In the years ahead, your gift will help deserving students to realise their potential at Melbourne, regardless of their background or financial circumstances. It will support breakthrough research and allow us to continue to address the most pressing global problems. It will help us attract and retain brilliant and innovative minds, as well as provide the facilities on which our students, academics and researchers depend.

I invite you to become part of a rich heritage of informed intellectual enquiry and knowledge-sharing as we examine the questions that matter.

On behalf of the University community I offer you my heartfelt thanks.

“I invite you to become part of the University’s rich heritage.”

Professor Duncan Maskell

VICE-CHANCELLOR

Your gift, your legacy

We all have a vision for the future of our world: problems we’d like to see solved, opportunities we’d like to create.

You may be passionate about the arts, or science, or economics. Perhaps what’s most important to you is ecological sustainability, or medical research, or sporting excellence. No matter where your interest lies, contributing to something you care about deeply brings a greater sense of purpose and meaning to your life.

But imagine if your passion could continue to make a contribution beyond your lifetime.

A gift in your Will is a powerful and enduring pledge to future generations. It is part of your legacy, and reflects who you are and what you value most in life. That’s why we want to work with you to shape a meaningful gift that has long-term impact.

Like you, we know that education has the power to open the door to opportunity and change.

Few gifts can create as many opportunities for our students and researchers as a gift in your Will to the University of Melbourne.

You may choose to enable deserving students to attend university, regardless of their personal circumstances. Or you may decide to enhance our researchers’ ability to respond to the major social, economic and environmental challenges that we, and future generations, face. You might contribute to the vibrancy of our campus, or help to enrich our libraries and precious cultural collections.

Whatever you decide, we look forward to working with you to ensure that your gift to the University of Melbourne continues to grow and be cherished through the lives of others for generations to come.
Opening doors

By establishing a scholarship and ensuring its continuation through a gift in her Will, Dr Alice Glover is helping students like Alvis Piksons to seize every opportunity in the pursuit of knowledge.

“I come from a family of teachers, and right from the beginning I had that sense of the importance of doing something more than just earning a living.

My upbringing also instilled in me the importance of making the most of your opportunities – that was a really formative lesson. But the other influence was this sense of being poor, really quite poor.

It wasn’t a stigma so much as a limitation to what you could do.

I was accepted into medicine and got a Commonwealth Scholarship, which meant I didn’t have to pay any fees. Books were a major issue financially, but I earned a bit of money babysitting and waitressing.

I absolutely understand the concern Millennials have about job security and house prices and all that, and my motivation for setting up a scholarship now, and supporting it into the future through a gift in my Will, is to give financially challenged students a chance to attend uni.

More than giving the recipients the chance to just ‘get through’ is exposing them to a university environment and the infinite possibilities of new knowledge. I want to give students the opportunity to know what they don’t know, and to pursue what interests them.

For me, education is about opening doors. I’ve had the chance to go back to uni several times, and to take my career in several different directions. Through this scholarship, I hope more people see those doors opening all around them, too – and that they’re brave enough to walk through them!”

Dr Alice Glover

“Scholarship support makes getting through university easier, so you can focus on your studies and live rather than just get by. But it’s more than just the money; it’s also the extra layer of support.”

Alvis Piksons
"Philanthropic funding not only allows researchers to build an evidence base, especially for emerging concepts, but it also helps to build a track record to apply for further competitive funding."

Dr Nupur Nag

Hope for better health

Dr Lesley Boston's future gift envisions a better future for people living with neurological diseases – a hope shared by Dr Nupur Nag, whose innovative research focuses on the impact of lifestyle on the health outcomes of people with Parkinson's disease.

"My mother didn’t ever have a lot of money, but she always gave to church events or local country organisations. When swagmen came to the door asking for tea or sugar in return for sharpening scissors or doing some odd job, she always gave generously – even if it was on a small scale.

I grew up knowing you should help people and it was a good thing to do. And it is. I think giving is more worthwhile and satisfying than receiving.

In her very last years, my mother suffered from Parkinson’s disease. It wasn’t very advanced, but it was inhibiting and made life difficult, as did the onset of dementia.

There’s not a great deal that’s known about neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s or motor neurone disease. And they do affect a lot of people. They can be hidden diseases in many ways, as there isn’t the same publicity and awareness as for others.

I saw Parkinson’s destroy a strong, generous, highly intelligent, creative person. So, I thought any little bit I can do to advance research can probably help.

By supporting research into neurological diseases through a gift in my Will, I hope that more people might be able to continue working in this area to find a cause and, ultimately, a cure.

My mother showed me that even people who don’t have tremendous wealth can make a contribution. It all adds up in the final analysis."

Dr Lesley Boston AO
A passion for preservation

Concern for the natural environment unites Dr Chris Murray, who is leaving a gift in his Will to support restoration ecology, and Dr Andrew Weeks, whose research into conservation genetics is helping ensure the future survival of Australia’s threatened species.

“Dentistry has been a fantastic profession but I think that if there had been environmental science when I was at university, I probably would have chosen to study that. I’ve always been interested in the environment, and birds especially.

Loss of biodiversity is one of the great tragedies of our generation and our civilisation. You look at the dwindling populations of endangered species around the globe. And it’s not just climate change – it’s the destruction of their habitats and the total lack of awareness from people of what they’re doing to the world. It’s the environment that pays the price.

I’ve been really happy to contribute to dentistry through my professional career, but now I hope to make a difference by supporting restoration ecology and environmental research, because it’s an area I’ve always cared about.

My hope is that supporting a project or researcher at the University will make a difference by helping to arrest the environmental decline of a number of species. I want my gift to be productive, both practically and in terms of improving the future.

There should be some passion involved in giving so that it is personal. I have been immersed in my working life as a prosthodontist, my chosen profession, for decades, but now preserving our natural environment for future generations is my dream for those who will follow. The University shares that passion, too.”

Dr Chris Murray

“Individuals can make a difference. You can’t just rely on governments or other organisations. With the research we’re doing, we know that we’re impacting the future survival of Australia’s threatened species.”

Dr Andrew Weeks
“One of the values that my parents instilled in me was to be grateful for what you have, and that to do something for someone else is much more satisfying than to do something for yourself.

If I hadn’t had the Commonwealth Scholarship, I wouldn’t have gone to the University of Melbourne. I want to give others that opportunity, and they may well go on to work in the area of animal welfare, something I care deeply about.

I’ve loved animals from day one. Animals have their own lives – they are intelligent – and we have to try and educate the community to believe that there is a worthwhile purpose to animals’ lives.

We should all be trying to achieve better conditions for farmed animals. I would like to think that animals are part of our society and we respect them.

One of the advantages of being part of the University is that you should be able to think laterally and care about what you believe needs to be done.

By setting up this scholarship for students undertaking research into the welfare of farmed animals, I hope that recipients will be able to look at animals’ welfare over the longer term to bring about more permanent change, whether it’s influencing policy at a government level, or developing new equipment.

I think giving a scholarship to someone who has the knowledge and the determination to do something good in the world is fantastic. It’s the best legacy I could leave.”

Helen Hayes

Helen Hayes and Professor Andrew Fisher share a vision for improving the welfare of farmed animals – a vision supported by a gift in Helen’s Will to support graduate students undertaking research in the field.

“Scholarships like Helen’s are not only a game-changer for the individual student, but they also provide an ongoing benefit to the field and to the animals involved.”

Dr Andrew Fisher
A discretionary gift in your Will allows for it to be directed where it is most needed at the time to fulfil the University’s highest priorities.

Or you can support them all...

A bright future for deserving students

Like you, we want to see all our students take advantage of a Melbourne education regardless of their social or financial background. Your gift will ensure that the most deserving students can fulfil their potential and become the leaders of tomorrow. It could support a student in financial need, provide life-changing opportunities for an Indigenous student, assist a brilliant young graduate through the early stages of their research, or broaden their horizons through the opportunity to study abroad and experience other cultures.

Leading research and discovery

Throughout our history, our researchers have been at the forefront of discovery and the translation of knowledge that is changing the world and people’s lives for the better. From addressing the technological and economic challenges of a decarbonised energy system to the links between sustainable soil management and global food security, or the potential of music therapy to improve the lives of millions of people worldwide living with dementia, Melbourne’s researchers are tackling the world’s most intractable problems. Your gift will give generations of researchers the support they need to continue their quest to create a better future for all.

Teaching and learning

Students choose Melbourne as their place to study because they know our courses offer outstanding depth and breadth. Every discipline is taught by academic thought-leaders renowned for their innovation and eagerness to share knowledge, their ability to imagine, inspire and challenge their students. Your gift will enable us to continue to attract and retain the most exceptional teachers to give our students the very best education.

A vibrant learning environment

Providing a world-class education and research experience is a key mission of the University of Melbourne. To achieve it requires ongoing investment in the renewal of our infrastructure. Your gift will help transform our laboratories, teaching spaces and buildings, enabling us to deliver excellence in teaching and research far into the future, while also maintaining our heritage and history.

Enriching our libraries and collections

The University’s libraries and archives, diverse museums, galleries, scientific and cultural collections are at the very heart of academic life. Your gift will help preserve and enhance these priceless resources for students and academics, alumni and the wider community into the future.

Fostering the creative arts

Much of what makes life worth living is elusive. The power to move – and to be moved – at an emotional level. Your gift to support our young musicians, visual and performing artists, filmmakers and designers will help fuel the vibrant spirit of Melbourne’s arts community, and encourage our future artistic leaders.

Encouraging sporting success

The power of sport to inspire and motivate goes well beyond the sports field. From improved physical and mental well-being through to the development of valuable life skills, it can greatly enhance a student’s ability to succeed in their studies – and in life. Your gift will help ensure that future student athletes continue to enjoy outstanding recreational and sporting opportunities.

Or you can support them all...

A discretionary gift in your Will allows for it to be directed where it is most needed at the time to fulfil the University’s highest priorities.
Types of gifts

It’s easy to include a gift to the University in your Will. You can choose how you would like to leave your gift, including:

A residual bequest. This is the simplest and most effective way to support the University’s future endeavours. After providing for your loved ones and paying all debts, you can leave the remainder of your estate (or a percentage of the remainder) to the University. A residual bequest automatically adjusts to the value of your estate over time, thus ensuring that your intent is truly reflected when your gift comes into effect.

A cash bequest. You can leave a specified dollar amount – but you may like to consider also including a CPI-indexed inflation clause to ensure that your gift retains its value over time.

Specific assets. You can leave property such as real estate, shares, artworks or anything of value to the University. The University can also be the sole beneficiary of a life insurance policy.

When planning your gift, we encourage you to discuss your intentions with your family.

Always seek independent financial, legal and tax advice when making or changing your Will.

Living bequests

A ‘living bequest’ is a special gift commenced during your lifetime and finalised with a gift in your Will. It can be a very effective pathway towards achieving your vision to create a better future.

An initial gift of capital – or a series of gifts – may be made now, with the further commitment of additional funds through your Will. The annual income can either be directed towards your intended purpose (such as a scholarship) or, in appropriate circumstances, recapitalised each year until the gift is finalised through your bequest.

Through a living bequest, you and your family can have the pleasure of seeing the impact of your gift in your lifetime.

Suggested wording

Once you have decided on the type of bequest you would like to make, ask your solicitor to draft the appropriate clause.

The following wordings may be taken as a guide:

I give [percentage of my residuary estate/dollar amount/specified assets] (‘the bequest’) to The University of Melbourne of Grattan Street, Parkville, Victoria ABN 84 002 705 224 (‘the University’), for the general purposes of the University.

A bequest that supports the University’s general purposes gives the University the most flexibility to respond to the greatest need at the time of your gift.

If you wish to be more specific about how your gift is used, we suggest the following wording:

I give [percentage of my residuary estate/dollar amount/specified assets] (‘the bequest’) to The University of Melbourne of Grattan Street, Parkville, Victoria ABN 84 002 705 224 (‘the University’). It is my preference that the bequest support [insert purpose, e.g. scholarships for students in financial need/the University libraries/the Melbourne Medical School (or its successor), etc.].

If you would like to direct your gift towards a specific purpose, please contact us first to ensure that your wishes can be fulfilled, and that your bequest will have the impact you intend. We can help tailor your gift in a way that is both robust for the future, and most meaningful to you.

Charitable status

The University of Melbourne is endorsed by the Australian Tax Office as a charitable organisation and Deductible Gift Recipient. Bequests of property (including real estate and shares) to the University may be exempt from Capital Gains Tax.
Our commitment to you

Leaving a gift in your Will is an important decision, one that requires careful consideration.

We recognise that, rightly, when considering a gift in your Will your family and loved ones will always come first. But because we are committed to the transformative power of higher learning, we will always encourage you to consider also leaving something to the University.

Please be assured that any bequest information that you choose to share with us will be held in utmost confidence and will not in any way be seen as binding. At any time, you have the absolute right to change your mind.

We will always advise you to seek your own independent legal, tax and financial advice about your proposed gift. While the University cannot offer you specific legal or tax advice, our gifts in Wills staff nevertheless work closely with the University’s Legal Service in the development of suggested Will wordings, and in the administration of all realised bequests to the University.

The University adheres to best practice fund management procedures to ensure that the gifts entrusted to us are managed responsibly. The strategy for and performance of all University investments are overseen by an Investment Management Committee, comprised of industry professionals, University Council members and senior executives.

The University takes its accountability to our generous benefactors very seriously. A special committee of the University Council monitors how the University receives and allocates gifts based on the wishes expressed by donors and benefactors, as well as our stewardship of all gifts, including bequests.

Every gift in every Will makes a difference to the University, and we always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge our benefactors’ generosity in their lifetime. As a benefactor you will be invited to join the Heritage Society, and to remain involved with aspects of University life that interest you.

Please let us know

We understand that making your Will is a very personal matter, and we will respect your confidentiality at all times.

If you have included the University in your Will, or are considering doing so, please do let us know so that we can thank you properly.

Letting the University know of your intentions not only allows us to plan better for the future but also gives you the opportunity to discuss any particular wishes or concerns you may have about your gift.

We would be delighted to meet with you, if you wish, to tell you more about your area of interest at the University, and to talk through your bequest ideas in a confidential setting.

You are also welcome to visit the University at any time. Please let us know if this would interest you, and we will be happy to arrange a personalised tour for you.

Thank you

When you include the University in your Will, you are contributing to a positive future for our world.

It is an expression of your commitment to the transformational power of learning, research and discovery in our society. It demonstrates your trust in future generations – and your belief in humanity – to rise to the challenges of the day both within Australia and across the globe.

Your gift will continue to make a difference for many, many years to come.
The Heritage Society

The Heritage Society acknowledges and thanks benefactors during their lifetime for their generous intention to support the University and our future endeavours through the special commitment of a gift in their Will.

Members are invited to attend events throughout the year which provide the opportunity to meet with the University community. There is also an annual celebratory lunch, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and attended by University leaders, academics and students.

Members also receive the Creating Futures newsletter, with inspiring stories that demonstrate the impact of previous bequests, and updates about our current benefactors.

We look forward to welcoming you to this convivial and growing group of like-minded alumni and friends of the University.

With your support we can look forward to a future in which the University continues to make a vital contribution to the kind of world that our children – and their children’s children – will inherit.

Please contact us

For a confidential discussion about your wishes, or to let us know that you have included the University in your Will, please contact our Gifts in Wills team on +61 3 9035 3489 or bequests-office@unimelb.edu.au
Behind every gift in every Will, there is a story of hope and optimism for a better future.

For further information about including a gift in your Will to the University of Melbourne, please contact:

Gifts in Wills, Advancement Office
The University of Melbourne, VIC 3010
+61 3 9035 3489
bequests-office@unimelb.edu.au