

# General Introduction

## 2008

The University of Melbourne was established by an Act of the Victorian Parliament in 1853. The foundation stone of the first University building was laid in 1854 on the present central University site of about twenty hectares in the northern part of the City of Melbourne.

Adjacent to the central site, under separate grants and titles, are the recreation grounds of almost six and a half hectares and the lands of the affiliated residential colleges covering more than eighteen hectares. The University also has other campuses and properties in suburban Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The University consists of a Council, the Professors, other members of the academic staff, members of faculties, graduates, diplomates, undergraduates and members of the general staff designated by Council. The Council of 21 members has responsibility for the conduct of University affairs.

The graduates collectively comprise Convocation, which may make submissions on University matters to the Council. Convocation elects a Standing Committee which may make submissions to Council.

Academic administration of the University is conducted by the various faculties, the Melbourne Business School, and the School of Graduate Research and is supervised by the Academic Board.

The University offers a range of bachelor degree courses details of which can be found in Regulation 5.4.R1, published in the Statutes and Regulations volume accompanying the Calendar. In most disciplines in which there is a degree of bachelor, degrees of master and doctor and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy are also available. The University also offers a Juris Doctor course.

In 2008, the University introduced the "Melbourne Model". At the core of the Melbourne Model are the new generation undergraduate degrees:

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Biomedicine

Bachelor of Commerce

Bachelor of Environments

Bachelor of Music

Bachelor of Science

Each one of these programs offers a chance to study specific disciplines in depth, while providing the opportunity to undertake subjects from other areas. Together with increased prospects for internships, study abroad and participation in industry projects, these degrees offer the chance to explore a range of interests before committing to a particular career path.

Consistent with the Melbourne Model, the University's academic structure is also changing. From the beginning of 2008, two faculties – Melbourne Graduate School of Education and Melbourne Law School – became graduate schools established as faculties and, notwithstanding the need to "teach out" existing undergraduate courses, will in the future offer only graduate courses. Several faculties established graduate schools within their structure to facilitate the implementation of the Melbourne Model:

Melbourne School of Design (in the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning)

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (in the Faculty of Arts)

Melbourne Graduate School of Management (in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce)

Melbourne Graduate School of Science (in the Faculty of Science)

At its inception, and for many years afterwards, the University received grants from the Victorian Government, and income from fees and benefactions. Since the Second World War the Australian Government has provided financial support. From the beginning of 1974, with the agreement of the Victorian Government, the Australian Government assumed responsibility for the governmental financial support of this and other universities and at the same time provided funds to enable tuition fees to be abolished. The Federal Government introduced, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1989, the Higher Education Contribution Scheme, which applies to all students enrolling or re-enrolling in government funded higher education courses from that date. The Scheme consists of an annual charge which each student is liable to pay towards

the cost of his or her study. This charge may be paid at enrolment or deferred and paid through the taxation system. However, full fees are payable by international students and by students of graduate and postgraduate coursework programs. From 1999 a limited number of places in undergraduate courses have been made available on a full-fee basis to Australian students unable to secure a government-funded place. This scheme was abolished by the federal government elected in November 2007. Until July 2006, all students had to pay the University's Amenities and Services Fee. This was abolished by a federal Act of Parliament in December 2005.

In size, the University grew slowly during its first 90 years from the original sixteen students in 1855 to 4,000 in 1945. This growth was accelerated after the Second World War when the University faced increasing demands on its facilities, first by large numbers of ex-servicemen and women in the immediate postwar years and then by the increasing numbers of students completing secondary school courses.

In the last decade of the 20th century the structure of the University underwent profound change. An amalgamation between the University and the adjacent Melbourne College of Advanced Education came into effect in 1989. This resulted in a merger between the College and the University's Faculty of Education. The Hawthorn Institute of Education, affiliated with the University in 1991, is now fully amalgamated and integrated with the Faculty of Education.

Also in 1991, the Victorian College of the Arts affiliated with the University and from 1 January 2007 it merged with the University to become the faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts.

The Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture affiliated with the University in 1992, and became a part of the new Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture in 1995. The faculty was reconstituted as the Institute of Land and Food Resources in July 1997.

In 1998 the University established a private arm, Melbourne University Private Ltd, which offered its first courses in 1999. During 2001 the first stage of a merger between Melbourne University Private Ltd and Melbourne Enterprises International Ltd, the University's commercial arm, was effected. Melbourne Enterprises International Limited became a subsidiary of Melbourne University Private Ltd. As from July 2003 Melbourne University Private Ltd became a self-accrediting institution. In June 2005, University Council resolved to merge the academic and business operations of Melbourne University private into the public university.

The University's total student enrolment in 2008 equates to a teaching load of 35,532. It has a total academic staff of 2,909 and a total general staff of 3,457.

The hard-copy Calendar is produced in the final quarter of the year and represents a snap-shot at a particular moment in time. The hard-copy Calendar is published along with a complete set of the University internal legislation – Statutes, Regulations under statute and Trusts Regulations that are correct at the time of printing. The contents of the Calendar are those that have been traditionally included, and with the advent of electronic communication and publishing, much more detailed and relevant up-to-date information is now available in other University publications that are available at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/publications/>. 2008 is also the last year that such an extensive set of University legislation will be printed. In 2008, the University established a project under the title of Taking Responsibility for Making Melbourne Manageable ('TRMMM'). The TRMMM project is reviewing all 17 chapters of the University's legislation and is rationalising and simplifying it. The first package of TRMMM legislation was approved by the relevant Victorian Minister on 22 December 2008. That is too late for it to appear in the 2008 Calendar (the legislation "snapshot" is taken on 30 November), but it is likely that the amount of legislation printed to accompany future Calendars will be significantly reduced. All of the University's legislation is available at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/Statutes/>.

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