



# UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

## **Appointment of Vice-Chancellor**

The University of Divinity delivers education and research in theology, philosophy, and spirituality and for over one hundred years has prepared its graduates for ministry, leadership, and community service.

The University is regularly ranked by students as the top University in Australia for student satisfaction and learner engagement, reflecting the high quality of its curriculum and the dedication of staff to working with small classes.

The University operates across Australia with the Office of the Vice-Chancellor based in Melbourne. The University works in partnership with over thirty churches, religious orders, and associated organisations in a unique ecumenical enterprise.

Following the announcement that the University's inaugural Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Sherlock, will step down in March 2024 after 12 years in the role, the University Council is seeking an appropriately experienced scholar to guide the University through the next phase of its development.

## Background

The University of Divinity is a body corporate, constituted by an Act passed by the Parliament of the State of Victoria in December 1910 (*The University of Divinity Act*). Since its inception as the Melbourne College of Divinity, the University has been committed to providing ecumenical theological education of the highest order through the awarding of a variety of degrees and diplomas, from undergraduate to doctoral level.

The University is listed by the Commonwealth of Australia as a Table B (independent, self-regulating) Higher Education Provider in the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* and is registered by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) as an Australian University operating in the broad field of Society and Culture. The University of Divinity is regularly ranked by students as the best in Australia for student engagement and overall student experience.

## Structure

The Council is the governing authority of the University, directing and overseeing the activities of the University. The Academic Board has oversight of academic programs and courses of study in the University and other academic affairs of the University and advises the Council on these matters. In this context, the Academic Board advises the Council on accreditation of the Colleges of the University to participate in the delivery of the University's education, engagement, and research programs.

## Mission

The University's mission is to excel in education, engagement, and research about religious beliefs and spiritual practices and their contemporary application. The University's vision is to enable its graduates and partners to serve the common good and to be agents of transformation in the world.

The University is committed to maintaining the highest standards of teaching and research in internationally recognised theological and ministerial education, to understanding faith in secular contexts and to enriching the Christian churches through the highest quality research and teaching. At the same time, the University recognises that theological education and scholarship face a challenging contemporary environment in Australia and internationally.

In the promotion of its mission in this increasingly secular context, the University encourages academic staff, scholars, and students to explore opportunities to develop their understanding of their faith, and in a spirit of dialogue to engage with wider social contexts. This includes the University providing awards that serve a variety of professions beyond the churches, drawing on Christian values and traditions. The University has a strong commitment to raising up First Nations students and staff who can contribute to a more just society for both First Nations peoples and later arrivals in Australia.

The University currently has twelve Colleges and three Schools that operate individually and collegially within the framework of the University of Divinity:

- Australian Lutheran College
- Catholic Theological College
- Eva Burrows College
- Pilgrim Theological College
- St Athanasius College
- St Barnabas College
- St Francis College
- Trinity College Theological School
- Uniting College for Leadership and Theology
- Whitley College
- Wollaston Theological College
- Yarra Theological Union

Administrative services are provided by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor to support the students and staff of the Colleges and Schools. Academic, managerial and

governance committees have responsibilities to regulate educational standards throughout the institution, and to administer the University effectively and efficiently. In particular, the University Executive, a committee of the University Council, which is chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and comprised of the College Principals, School Heads and University Librarian, fosters the collaborative operation and strategic development of the University as a collegiate institution.

The Vice-Chancellor and President, as Chief Executive Officer of the University, is responsible to the Council for the leadership and good management of the University.





## Vice-Chancellor Role and Responsibilities

The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for realising the mission of the University and for promoting the University's progress, in collaborative partnership with the College Principals.

The key role of the Vice-Chancellor is to provide leadership and vision in progressing and achieving the University's mission.

### Leadership

- Developing and communicating the vision of the University of Divinity as a national ecumenical university.
- Building an effective leadership team which is empowered to take responsibility for key portfolios and thereby collaboratively achieve the University's vision.
- Creating opportunities arising from changes in the external environment to achieve the University vision and managing the consequential changes.
- Ensuring the University and, in particular, the University Council is kept informed on all issues of importance to the University's functioning and external reputation.

### Management

- Developing the University's resources through the expansion of its contributions to education, research, and community engagement.
- Managing people, resources, and risks effectively to achieve the University's goals.



- Promoting, as a high priority, strategies for recruiting, developing, and retaining high quality staff.
- Overseeing the University's compliance with all relevant legislation, statutes, regulations, and policies.

### Education and Research

- Fostering a climate of creative and independent inquiry and scholarship through promotion of the University's excellence in teaching, learning and research.
- Fostering a learning and research environment within the University conducive to high academic attainment by staff and students.
- Providing strategies for recruiting high quality students, and developing in them appropriate intellectual and other skills.
- Ensuring the best possible student experience across the University's Colleges and Schools.

## Engagement

- Building strong and effective relationships with the University's Colleges founded on a shared vision for the University.
- Maximising the University's potential to attract resources from both the public and private sectors to create a viable resource base from which the vision can be achieved.
- Representing the University in the external community locally and nationally, and through such representation building strong relationships with the partner Churches, government, and other key stakeholders.
- Initiating, developing, and supporting strategic collaborative and co-operative ventures with community agencies, including other educational institutions.
- Promoting in the community the importance of critical engagement with Christian theological traditions.
- Experience of successfully building and promoting long-term strategic relationships in a wide range of local, national, and international forums.
- Demonstrated capacity to represent the University of Divinity at the highest levels through the application of outstanding interpersonal communication, negotiation and influencing skills.
- Cultural sensitivity, and a demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusiveness for staff and students
- An understanding of and commitment to the University of Divinity's aims, objectives, and values in action, together with relevant policies and guidelines.

## Skills and Experience

- A recognised higher degree and/or an outstanding record of scholarship and professional standing
- An outstanding record of effective strategic leadership and management at an organisation/faculty/school level
- Demonstrated capacity to lead a complex organisation dynamically in the development and implementation of its mission, goals, and objectives.
- Understanding of the rapidly changing landscape of higher education, including its challenges and opportunities, in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and internationally
- Demonstrated track record of effective commercial/resource decision-making.

## How to Apply

For further information and to apply, please contact Dr Rohan Carr or Ms Emily Witts at The Insight Group by phone +61 3 9654 3288 or email [applications@insightgroup.com.au](mailto:applications@insightgroup.com.au)

Your application should include:

- A cover letter articulating your vision, background, and suitability for the role.
- A comprehensive CV.

Applications close 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

