



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Faculty of
Engineering
and
Information
Technology

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FEIT 2035 Strategy

Mission driven impact through
innovation and collaboration



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Acknowledgment of Country

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, 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 acknowledge and respect Australia's First Nations people as our first scientists and engineers and are grateful to learn from knowledge and care for Country held by Indigenous people.

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.

In making this Acknowledgment of Country we commit to respectful and responsible conduct towards all others according to the Traditional lores of this land, particularly at times of formal ceremony.

About the artist and the artwork



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My name is Tarni Jarvis, and I am a proud Djab Wurrong, Kirrae Wurrong, and Peak Wurrong woman from the southwest of Victoria. I was born and raised on Wadawurrung country, which is where I currently raise my family.

Since 2019, I have been practicing art through my business, Kurrong Kalat, which grew from my love for storytelling and art, a passion passed down to me by my grandfather. I believe in the power of storytelling and art in delivering education and healing to everyone, and I hope to achieve this in my practice.

In this collection of artworks for FEIT 2035, the pieces illustrate the role that Indigenous knowledges and storytelling play in STEM. My motifs symbolise Country, connection, journey and the process of knowledge transfer, whilst community is at the heart of these stories and interwoven throughout. They reflect the collaboration between different individuals and communities, as well as the key values and innovative ideas guiding us toward problem-solving, education, and collective growth.

The art explores the idea of problem solving, and how we need to allow for the ups, downs, and diversions that naturally occur in this process, and recognising that coming to a solution isn't always a linear process. The contrast and texture of colours show these wayward journey lines and meeting points throughout the artwork, whilst also illustrating how different journeys sometimes intersect and change shape.



Message from the Dean



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The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology (FEIT) is at an important inflection point as we set our ambitions for the next 10 years.

In 2015, FEIT began a decade-long journey to be bigger, better and bolder; to achieve significant scale in our research capacity, and grow our community of academics, professionals and students. Underpinned by our commitment to excellence in education and research, we have expanded our research and innovation capacity and built an extensive network of partnerships across Australia, Europe, the US and Asia.

In 2025 the University of Melbourne, along with other higher education institutions, is navigating a rapidly changing environment. New priorities are emerging as Australia's Universities Accord process seeks to drive reform of the higher education sector with a long-term vision to generate the knowledge, skills and research our nation needs. Simultaneously, we face unprecedented global challenges that have transformed our lives in ways unimaginable a decade ago: emerging global instability, the increasing effects of climate change, the necessary transition to a net-zero future, and the transformational potential and challenges of artificial intelligence.

In this context, the faculty, as part of Australia's leading research-intensive university, is uniquely positioned to meet the moment. Knowledge, skills, and expertise in engineering and information technology will be central to address complex challenges. Our position within the Asia-Pacific region offers unparalleled opportunities for collaboration and influence in the world's most dynamic region.

We recognise the unique value of Indigenous knowledge held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and by elevating this knowledge in our teaching and research, we can enrich the fields of engineering and information technology with traditional wisdom.

In developing this strategy, we have considered the faculty's role in delivering the ambitions of the University, and how we can shape the future for the better.

The FEIT 2035 strategy is centred on education and research, built on the twin pillars of our people and partners, and prioritises transformational impact through six cross-cutting missions. These missions will empower us to lead, harness our capabilities, and cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration in partnership with industry, governments, and communities.

This strategy will guide us to lift our ambition, raise our student experience and education quality, and amplify our impact. In a time of great change and uncertainty, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to deliver the rich possibilities of engineering and information technology to transform lives and industries for the better.

Professor Thas Nirmalathas

Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

Our Purpose

To benefit the global community through the creation, curation and translation of knowledge in engineering and information technology.



Our Vision

Global impact through excellence in research and education.

Our values

Students at the centre

We enable our students to achieve their full potential.

Respect

We actively listen to the hopes and concerns of our colleagues, students and community.

Boldness

We support risk-taking, creativity and bold ideas.

Connection

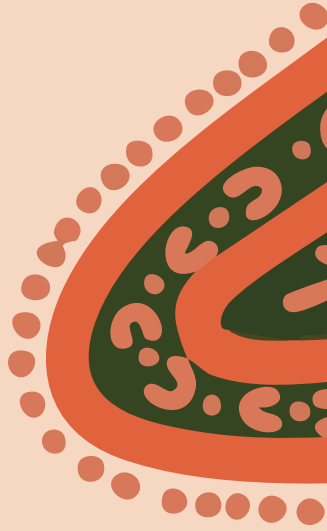
We strive to strengthen relationships, break down barriers and work together.

Diversity and inclusion

We deliver impact through diverse thought and people.

Transparency

We create an open environment that helps empower everyone to make decisions.



Our foundations: People and partners

Founded on the faculty's thriving community of educators, researchers, students, professionals and alumni, along with our rich network of partners, our ambition is to be a destination-of-choice for talented people and a partner-of-choice for collaborators.

Our people

We will nurture a collaborative, impact-focused culture that enables us to bring our diverse skills and experience together to innovate for transformative outcomes.

Our commitment to excellence is grounded in a culture of continuous learning, mentorship and professional development. We will invest in our community, providing our staff and students with the support, resources and facilities they need to succeed as innovators and leaders.

The FEIT community will be inclusive and safe. We will embrace difference and recognise the value that diversity brings to our education and research.

We will create an environment in which our staff and students can be their authentic selves and harness their full potential, with equal opportunities to thrive and succeed.

We will empower all members of our community to be inclusive leaders, working together to embed a culture of openness and respect that embraces and values diversity of thought, skills and experience.

Our staff and students will create an environment that celebrates and values Indigenous knowledges, prioritising opportunities to make our commitment evident and visible. We will increase Indigenous representation and participation at all levels. Through staff training and on-Country experiences, we will embed Indigenous knowledges and build cultural competence.

The FEIT community is international, and we will embed global connectivity through our education and research. We will nurture and grow our vibrant, diverse network of alumni, building enduring and reciprocal relationships to create opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Our objectives

- 1 Be a destination of choice for talented people
- 2 Nurture a collaborative, impact-focused environment that enables our people to succeed as educators, researchers, innovators and leaders
- 3 Cultivate a culture of safety, inclusion and respect
- 4 Increase Indigenous representation and participation

Our partners

We will harness our thriving national, regional and international collaborations to deliver positive impact for our faculty, partners and society.

We will cultivate partnerships with industry, government and community that are founded on shared values, common goals, complementary expertise, and mutually beneficial outcomes.

We will engage deeply with industry, encouraging commercialisation and entrepreneurialism.

We will build authentic and enduring relationships with Australian Indigenous communities. We will work with Indigenous peoples to co-design and deliver practical and sustainable engineering solutions to meet Community ambitions.

Our objectives

- 1 Be a partner of choice for collaborators
- 2 Amplify our impact through transformative partnerships
- 3 Build authentic and enduring relationships with Australian Indigenous communities



Our education

We will empower our students to become globally impactful engineering and information technology leaders and innovators who thrive in complex environments.

Our faculty's innovative teaching practices enable our students to apply deep theoretical understanding to address society's challenges. Our students will benefit from research-informed, industry-engaged experiential learning. Their educational experience will be internationally connected and enriched by our commitment to sustainability, global perspectives and Indigenous knowledge and values.

Our graduates will be lifelong learners known for their excellent technical knowledge, decision-making, collaboration and critical thinking skills. They will put these skills into practice to positively impact their communities and contribute to an equitable and sustainable world.

Our education will be accessible and relevant, with supportive pathways for entry, and enriching learning experiences on campus, on Country and online. We will cultivate an inclusive student community that embraces diversity of thought, skills and experience, fosters intellectual curiosity and promotes cross-cultural understanding through local experience with global relevance.

Our students will feel a deep and enduring sense of belonging and we will support them to discover the people, spaces and experiences that will unlock the transformational benefits of a University of Melbourne education.

Our objectives

- 1 Empower the next generation of engineering and information technology professionals as leaders and innovators
- 2 Prepare our students to solve society's challenges through research-informed, industry engaged experiential learning
- 3 Strengthen our commitment to sustainability, global perspectives and Indigenous knowledge in the curricula
- 4 Imbue our students with a deep sense of belonging



Our research

Leveraging the scale, profile and capabilities of our research community, our ambition is to be recognised as a global leader, addressing society's complex challenges and delivering transformative impact through innovative, interdisciplinary, engaged research.

Our research will be built on the foundational pillars of excellence, integrity and impact, and our shared commitment to curiosity, critical thinking, and the pursuit of knowledge.

Responding to society's challenges, we will take a mission-driven approach to enhance collaboration across geographical and disciplinary boundaries, seeking new discoveries at the frontier of key disciplines of engineering and information technologies, and co-designing solutions with our industry, government, and community partners.

We are committed to supporting Indigenous-led research honouring traditional knowledge and practices, and enabling Indigenous wisdom to shape the future of engineering practice.

Underpinned by our commitment to research translation, we will prioritise impact through partnering and entrepreneurship. Our researchers will actively communicate their work and expertise to the broader community, contributing to the public debate and influencing the decisions that will shape the future of society.

Through our commitment to research training, we will prepare our graduate research students to become the research leaders of the future.

We will harness our state-of-the-art capabilities, facilities and infrastructure and, working side-by-side with industry partners, will use them as powerful catalysts for collaboration and innovation.



Our objectives

- 1** Harness our research and innovation capacity to maximise our positive impact on the world through a mission-driven approach
- 2** Enable, reward and celebrate impact and translation
- 3** Realise the potential of our places and partnerships as powerful catalysts for collaboration and innovation
- 4** Nurture a culture of excellence in impactful research



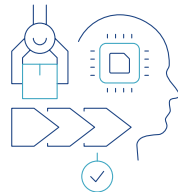
Our mission-driven approach

We will be bold and ambitious, taking a mission-driven approach to our education and research to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our region and the world. We will innovate, collaborate, convene and influence across boundaries to realise the potential of engineering and information technology to transform society for the better.



Improve health and wellbeing

Healthcare systems around the world are under unsustainable pressure. From supporting an ageing population and the need to better serve rural and remote communities to the threat of antimicrobial resistance, the challenges are complex. The potential for transformation through innovation is significant. From health technologies and digital health solutions to bioprocessing for food and pharma solutions, we will leverage FEIT's multidisciplinary expertise, leading the effort to reimagine the way healthcare is delivered to prolong healthy functional years of life, reduce demands on our healthcare systems and enhance wellbeing.



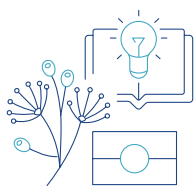
Enable a smart economy

Digital transformation and automation are revolutionising economies across the globe and there are significant opportunities for governments and businesses large and small to harness the benefits of AI and digital innovation. But unequal access to the benefits of a smart economy and a lack of digital and AI skills are hindering productivity and progress. Leveraging FEIT's capabilities in AI-human collaboration, cybersecurity, network control, automation and advanced manufacturing, we will seek to drive digital transformation, enhancing productivity, promoting inclusive economic growth, and democratising access to advanced technologies.



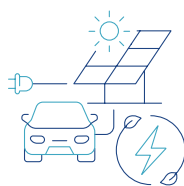
Foster a safe and secure world

The global threats to safety and security are complex and multi-faceted, encompassing the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, increasing cybersecurity risks and geopolitical instability. With cutting-edge interdisciplinary expertise in AI, autonomous systems, advanced materials and human systems, FEIT is well-positioned to meet these challenges enabling enhanced prediction, decision-making and response to enhance national security and defence and support disaster management. Our goal is to contribute to resilient, adaptable communities that are ready for future challenges.



Elevate Indigenous voices and knowledges

We will ensure that an education in engineering and information technology is accessible to Indigenous Australians. We recognise the value of Indigenous engineering knowledges and the importance of incorporating these practices throughout the Academy. We will take a leading role in building the connection between Indigenous knowledges and modern engineering practices and increasing participation in engineering and information technology. Alongside Indigenous communities, we will act as a convening force for industry and the higher education sector to inspire Indigenous Australians towards engineering and information technology careers, and harness Indigenous knowledge for social good.



Cultivate a sustainable future

Addressing the significant challenges of climate change, resource depletion and environmental degradation demands a coordinated global effort. FEIT is well-positioned to lead the way by leveraging our interdisciplinary capabilities in digital twins and sustainable transport, circular economy, sustainable agriculture, water, energy and manufacturing, and decarbonisation technologies. Our goal is to accelerate the transition to a sustainable future, supporting communities through innovation, collaboration and knowledge-transfer.



Shape better places for people to live

Engineers and information technology professionals carry a social responsibility because of their impact on the physical, social, and digital environments we inhabit. We have the opportunity to reduce inequalities, influence behaviours, and contribute to public wellbeing. From improving air and water quality, ensuring responsible technology development and transitioning to renewable energy, to reimagining transportation, securing digital information, and reshaping the homes, neighbourhoods and the surrounding communities we live in, our mission is to leverage these capabilities through a human-centred approach to build sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities that benefit everyone.

FEIT 2035 strategy at a glance

Purpose	To benefit the global community through the creation, curation and translation of knowledge in engineering and information technology		
Vision	Global impact through excellence in research and education		
What we will be known for	<hr/> We will empower our students to become globally impactful engineering and information technology leaders and innovators who thrive in complex environments		
Strategic objectives	<hr/> Empower the next generation of engineering and information technology professionals as leaders and innovators <hr/> Imbue our students with a deep sense of belonging <hr/> Realise the potential of our places and partnerships as powerful catalysts for collaboration and innovation		
Missions	Improve health and wellbeing	Enable a smart economy	Foster a safe and secure world
Foundations	<u>People</u> Be a destination of choice for talented people	Nurture a collaborative, impact-focused environment	Cultivate a culture of safety, inclusion and respect

We will be recognised as a global leader in addressing society’s complex challenges, delivering transformative impact through innovative, interdisciplinary, engaged research

Prepare our students to solve society’s challenges through research-informed, industry-engaged experiential learning

Strengthen our commitment to sustainability, global perspectives and Indigenous knowledge in the curricula.

Harness our research and innovation capacity to maximise our positive impact on the world through a mission- driven approach

Enable, reward and celebrate impact and translation

Nurture a culture of excellence in impactful research

Elevate Indigenous voices and knowledges

Cultivate a sustainable future

Shape better places for people to live

Increase Indigenous representation and participation

Partners

Be a partner-of-choice for collaborators

Amplify our impact through transformative partnerships

Build authentic and enduring relationships with Australian Indigenous communities





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