

Vice Chancellor

Lead with purpose. Shape the future. Inspire generations.

This is a unique opportunity to lead the University of Notre Dame Australia, a distinctive, values-led Catholic university renowned for its student-centred approach, commitment to academic excellence, and enduring contribution to communities through education, research and service.

A national Catholic university with a clear mission, The University of Notre Dame Australia delivers values-based, professionally focused education and mission-driven research that tackles real-world challenges and serves the common good. Its growing impact is recognised nationally and internationally, with a strong reputation for forming graduates who combine intellectual rigour with ethical leadership and community service, and success in the delivery of research with impact in key areas of priority. As Vice Chancellor of The University of Notre Dame Australia, you will provide strategic, academic and executive leadership, advancing the University's mission while shaping its future direction and navigating an increasingly complex higher education, political and regulatory environment.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Vice Chancellor is responsible for the overall leadership, performance and stewardship of the University and will champion educational excellence, strengthen research and innovation, enhance the student experience, and ensure the University's financial sustainability and long-term success. You will cultivate a dynamic Catholic identity that inspires excellence, service and innovation, while fostering a culture of collaboration, inclusion and continuous improvement across the University.

As the University's principal ambassador, the Vice Chancellor will build enduring relationships with the Catholic Church, government, industry, philanthropic partners, alumni and the broader community, strengthening the University's reputation, influence and impact in Australia and beyond. The successful candidate will combine strategic vision with strong stewardship, financial discipline and commercial acumen and inspire confidence through authenticity, integrity and outstanding leadership, leading growth and transformation in a rapidly evolving higher education landscape.

This is a rare opportunity to lead a distinctive Australian Catholic university at a pivotal time in its evolution and to make a lasting contribution to an institution with a clear sense of purpose, an inclusive Catholic mission and an ambitious vision for the future. If you are a strategic, values-led leader inspired by purpose, service and community, we welcome your application.

How to Apply

The University of Notre Dame Australia is supported by Heidrick & Struggles for this global search process.

For further information about the opportunity or for a confidential conversation please contact Janelle Entwistle or Tanu Mehta at UNDAVC@heidrick.com or on +61 3 9012 3065.

Applications close at 11.59pm AEST on Friday 21 August 2026.