



Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) announcement

30 September 2024

Dear students,

I'm writing to let you know Professor Emma Johnston has resigned from her position as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) to accept the role of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne.

On behalf of the University community, I warmly congratulate Emma on her appointment and thank her for the valuable contribution she has made since joining us in July 2022.

Emma has made a significant impact in a short time. She is deeply passionate about supporting early- and mid-career researchers and making Sydney a better place to work and a place that works better so researchers at all levels have the time and facilities they need to focus on their research.

Her establishment of the University's [Sydney Horizon Fellows](#) scheme has significantly boosted our research capability by recruiting the best and brightest early- and mid-career academics who are focused on solving some of the most complex problems of our time including around climate change, health and sustainability.

Alongside our partner the Sydney Local Health District she has driven the [Sydney Biomedical Accelerator](#) to help create a globally recognised precinct for the development and translation of health and medical research. During her time with us the University secured our [highest ever ranking overall](#) to be placed 18th globally and 2nd in Australia in the prestigious 2025 QS World University Rankings, and [29th globally and 2nd in Australia](#) in the US News Best Global Universities Rankings.

Research translation has been a key focus of her work at the University, rolling out a system transformation which reduces workload for academics with an aim to accelerate research and amplify its impact.

Emma is a highly awarded and world-leading authority in marine science and conservation, and a Chief Author of the [Australian State of Environment Report 2021](#). As the past President of Science & Technology Australia (STA), an elected position, she continues to be a highly influential figure in the Australian higher education and research sector. She has led major research projects for industry, government, the Australian Research Council and the Australian Antarctic Science Program and contributed to international and national research strategies, priorities and plans.

Last year she was appointed to the board of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for four years. She also serves as Chair of the Group of Eight Research Working Group and was a member of the Project Advisory Group for the recent Go8 report *Australia's Research and Development (R&D) Intensity: A Decadal Roadmap to 3% of GDP*.

She is a former Dean of Science and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at University of New South Wales (UNSW).

I am delighted for Emma as she embarks on this exciting new endeavour and look forward to working with her in her new capacity as Vice-Chancellor of a fellow Group of Eight university.

Emma's departure date and interim arrangements are still being finalised, and I will keep you updated. Please join me in once again congratulating Emma on this appointment and wishing her well in her new role.

Kind regards,
Mark

Professor Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President

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