Ambition inspired by achievement

Charter

The University of Sydney was incorporated by the Parliament of New South Wales on 1 October 1850, making it Australia’s first university.

“The functions … of the University include the:

a) provision of educational and research facilities at university standard

b) promotion, advancement and transmission of knowledge and research

c) commitment to the development and provision of cultural, professional, technical and vocational services to the community, and

d) conferring of the degrees of Bachelor, Master and Doctor and the awarding of diplomas and other certificates.”

– University of Sydney Act, 1989 (as amended)

Our aspiration

The next decade is one of challenge and opportunity, in which we will build on our position as Australia’s premier university and leader in Australian higher education.

Our aspiration is to achieve:

• clear leadership as Australia’s premier university in research, teaching and learning and the student experience

• acknowledgment and ranking as one of the top five universities in the region, and

• recognition and ranking in the top 40 universities around the world.

For us, this aspiration is known as 1:5:40.

We will achieve this aspiration through leadership which embraces reform in the four core areas of:

• research and innovation

• learning and teaching

• student experience, and

• community engagement and outreach.

This leadership will be supported by best practice, excellence and world-class standards in:

• alumni engagement and philanthropy

• capability

• infrastructure and services, and

• financial performance.

While leadership should be reflected in rankings it will, more significantly, be evident in meaningful relationships with leading universities around the world.

Our values

• Responsibility and service through leadership in the community

• Quality and sustainability in meeting the needs of our stakeholders

• Merit, equity and diversity in our student body

• Integrity, professionalism and collegiality in our staff

• Lifelong relationship and friendship with our alumni

These values must inform our ambition. We will dedicate our individual talents and the available resources of the University to uphold and advance:

• freedom to pursue critical and open inquiry in a responsible manner

• recognition of the importance of ideas and ideals

• tolerance, honesty, respect and ethical behaviour, and

• understanding of the needs of those we serve.

– The University Plan 2006–2010