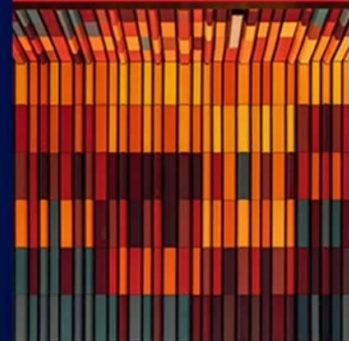


# 2026 Professional Staff Conference

Innovative Community,  
Resilient Future



**The Professional Staff Conference** is a platform for professional staff to connect, share learnings and diverse experiences, promote collaboration, showcase achievements, and celebrate our role at the University of Melbourne.

The program will include keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities. These sessions will focus on success stories, challenges, opportunities, and takeaways relating to this year's conference theme: **Innovative Community, Resilient Future**.

What possibilities emerge when we break barriers and harness our collective strengths? PSC 2026 will uncover your hidden talents, expand your capabilities and foster inclusive environments where individuals and teams can thrive.

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## Submission Content

The 2026 Professional Staff Conference Committee warmly invites submissions from professional staff of all backgrounds and is committed to delivering an inclusive and welcoming event featuring a diverse range of speakers.

Pitch your idea – sell it to us!



Submissions from individuals or teams of presenters are welcome



Submissions that demonstrate collaboration across disciplines, functional areas or with external partners and organisations are strongly encouraged



Submissions focusing on the University's strategic priorities such as sustainability and Indigenous knowledge systems are also strongly encouraged



Submissions offering specific skill development sessions and/or networking and connection focused sessions would be appreciated too

## Sub-themes

To help guide presenters and attendees alike, there are three sub-themes for this year's conference:



## What to Consider

Submissions can be based on opportunities that you have capitalised on or innovative ideas that you have explored. This could include best practice guidance, a subject matter expert “guided tour”, case studies, a review of a critical project, or discussion of a current or hot topic. Attendees are from all areas of the University so sessions should be relevant to most staff.

Any questions, please email us at [psc-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:psc-info@unimelb.edu.au).

### Sustainability Considerations:

- Digital-based sessions are preferred so please use digital handouts through the conference app or any visual aids that can be shared electronically with the participants. This approach reduces paper waste and enables attendees to access the content conveniently.



- Minimise printing and paper: please avoid using butchers' paper and sticky notes for workshops and presentations. Consider using whiteboards (if you need any equipment in your session, please let us know). If printing is necessary, please use double-sided printing and reduce the number of copies. Avoid laminating paper as this cannot be recycled.
- Consider mentioning aspects of holistic sustainability (social, environmental and financial) in your presentation.

### The Format

The format of your presentation is central to ensuring successful audience engagement. It is important to consider what type of format will best suit the content that you are presenting. Please take a moment to read the [Types of Sessions/Presentations](#) section below to familiarise yourself with the session delivery options.

During the submission process you will be prompted to identify what you believe is the best format for your content and how this will engage with the audience. If you are unsure of what format would best suit your content, a member of our team is happy to discuss this with you once your submission has been received.

### The Themes

The 2026 Professional Staff Conference themes play a pivotal role in helping the conference and its sessions remain relevant to the audience. All potential presenters are asked to consider how their content relates to one or more of the conference themes.



## The Presentation Length

Most sessions will be allocated a 30-minute timeslot. This might include a presentation with Q&A, or a short interactive workshop.

There is potential for some sessions to be allocated a 50-min timeslot, if required. This might be in the form of workshops and panel discussions. If you believe your session would benefit from a longer time slot, our team will be happy to discuss this.

## Types of Sessions/Presentations

Below are the types of conference sessions on offer; however, if you have an extraordinary or unique session idea, we would love to hear about it within your submission.

	Format	Topic ideas	Presenter's Role
Workshop	Interactive between presenter and attendees with hands-on activities.	Teach a skill or usage of system or tool. Demonstrate a technique, problem solving methodology.	Design and lead an interactive session with attendee's participation. Provide material, handouts.
Showcase / demonstration / presentation	Short presentation with key learning outcomes attendees can take away and implement into their own work.	Share and describe a project, innovation, program or research with which you have been involved.	Design and deliver a presentation. Answer questions from attendees.
Panel discussion	Interactive between panel members and attendees.	A topic that incorporates the theme with sufficient depth and complexity to be of interest to a large audience.	Design and moderate the discussion.



## Key Dates – Presenter Submissions

The Professional Staff Conference Organising Committee will continue to be in contact with all potential presenters who submit their interest in participating in the conference. Please be aware of the following key dates and deadlines when submitting your interest.

### Presenter Workshops

All presenters are required to attend one of the presenter workshops prior to the conference. If presenting in a group, one member should attend but all are welcome. For many, this may be the first occasion in a long time presenting to a room with many people, so these workshops will be a great opportunity to learn hints and tips on how to best engage your audience in a face-to-face setting. Dates of these workshops will be announced in due course.

Activity	Key Dates
<p><b>Call for Submissions Opens</b> Staff from all levels and areas across the University are invited to submit their interest in delivering a presentation or session at the 2025 Conference.</p> <p>Submissions must be made via the online form on the PSC website only.</p>	Friday 15 May
<p><b>Call for Submissions Deadline</b></p>	Wednesday 24 June
<p><b>Consultation Period</b> A member of the Professional Staff Conference committee might be in contact to discuss your submission</p>	Wednesday 24 June – Friday 10 July
<p><b>Outcomes of Submissions</b> All potential presenters will be notified of the outcome of their submission.</p>	Monday 13 July
<p><b>Presenter Workshops</b></p>	Late July – Early August

### Submission Form

Submissions are now open via the online form on the PSC website only.

Submissions close at 11:59 pm on Wednesday 24 June.

### Attendance Fee

As a presenter, for acknowledging your valuable contribution to the conference, there will be a discounted ticket cost of \$270. The ticket will provide you with access to all sessions, meals, networking events and will help the PSC to cover venue and catering services.

## Questions

Please forward your queries to the 2026 Professional Staff Conference Committee and a member of the team will be in contact with you shortly. Email: [psc-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:psc-info@unimelb.edu.au)

## Privacy Collection Notice

The information on the submission form is collected by the 2026 Professional Staff Conference Committee. You can contact us on [psc-info@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:psc-info@unimelb.edu.au). The information is collected for the purpose of developing, promoting and administering the 2026 Professional Staff Conference. You may be contacted in relation to your participation in the Conference. The information will be used by authorised staff for the purpose for which it was collected and will be protected against unauthorised access and use. You may access personal information collected about you at any time.