

DOOKIE CAMPUS

# Supporting student success through Dookie



FACULTY OF VETERINARY  
AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



**BELIEVE**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



THE MELBOURNE EXPERIENCE: UNIQUE IN ITS FIELD

The University of Melbourne is the national leader in agriculture education. The Bachelor of Agriculture rises in demand every year and the course now comprises 600 students.

These are some of the best and brightest students in Australia. They are dedicated, disciplined and ambitious. They are determined to resolve the challenges facing food production in a rapidly changing world, using the lessons drawn from Australia's most highly regarded agriculture course.

This, however, is only part of their training. Lessons learned in Melbourne's classrooms need application to be of real value. For more than 130 years, Dookie played a pivotal role in our students' agriculture education. The campus has resulted in a proud tradition of Dookie graduates taking their knowledge to the world as leaders in business, science and policy making. It is a vibrant campus – a commercial farm that provides students with direct experience of all aspects of farming and food production, used in conjunction with the theoretical education learned at our Parkville campus.

“Having a campus embedded in the agricultural industry is a fantastic opportunity for students to undertake contemporary research in collaboration with industry in the areas where it matters most.”

**PROFESSOR DUNCAN MASKELL**  
VICE-CHANCELLOR



OVERVIEW

Every student who pursues an agriculture education should have the same opportunities.

Australia's future agricultural leaders require greater access to world-class education, if they are to reach their potential and provide us with the expertise needed to make food production sustainable in a climate-challenged world.

The University of Melbourne is one of the world's best universities and is well placed to provide emerging leaders with the rounded agriculture education critical to a career in agriculture, food or farming. We offer a comprehensive and immersive program, which combines a stellar classroom education with the practical farming experience necessary to equip students for a future on the land or in food production. Getting there, however, comes at a price – one that many students are unable to pay.

Our ambition is for any agriculture student to want to undertake residential study at Dookie – our regional farming campus – and be enabled to do so.

Your support is critical to this vision. Supporting students who choose to study at Dookie will ensure that the University of Melbourne achieves its mission to be a world-leading provider of agriculture education, sustaining a proud tradition of producing graduates for Australia's vital food and farming industries.

Our goal is to raise \$5 million by 2025 for Dookie scholarships and awards, generating an annual income stream of \$250 000 and enabling some 50 students to experience Dookie each year.

## FINANCIAL BURDEN: THE BARRIER TO SUCCESS

### Dookie is critical to the future of agriculture.

We strongly encourage students in the Bachelor of Agriculture to spend a semester at Dookie in the second year of their degree. Through this immersive farming experience, they gain the insights and practical foundations to fully harness their undergraduate study in agricultural science. Most students want to experience life on the farm at Dookie, however only one third of them end up doing so.

Supporting students in their ambitions to study at Dookie will ensure that the Bachelor of Agriculture becomes more accessible and that students looking to pursue higher research degrees will have the resources necessary to make their ambitions possible.

“All students in our faculty need to understand the agriculture and food sector where they will likely be working and Dookie campus provides that opportunity. Based in one of the most productive agricultural regions and with its own commercial farm, students at Dookie get broad and meaningful insights to the ‘real world’ of agriculture and food production. This not only helps them to experience and better understand the context of their learning and their projects, but it also puts them on the front line for employment and exciting career prospects.”

**PROFESSOR TIM REEVES**

DOOKIE PROFESSOR IN RESIDENCE



## DOOKIE: A LIFE-CHANGING FARM EXPERIENCE

Our Dookie campus is located two hours north of Melbourne in the Goulburn Valley – one of Australia’s most important, vibrant and diverse agricultural regions.

Since its establishment in 1886, Dookie has played a central role as an agricultural college and experimental farm – the largest of its kind in Australia and one of the largest farming campuses in the world. It contains more than 2 440 hectares of broadacre and livestock farmland, which allows the University’s students and researchers the opportunity to test innovations and promising discoveries at scale.

Dookie combines contemporary teaching facilities with direct experience of all farming and food production aspects, including a focus on environment, irrigation and water management, soils, crops, horticulture and winemaking.

This is a campus where students, industry and research experts collaborate and explore ideas, which can be tested with agricultural communities, farmers, government officials, food researchers and private agri-businesses.

Melbourne students who undertake the residential semester at Dookie graduate with a strong grounding in many farm and food production principles, and a deep understanding of the sustainability and land management issues affecting Australian farming.





## HELPING TO CHANGE THE FACE OF AGRICULTURE

Our ambition is to ensure that we deliver an extraordinary Dookie experience to our students for the next 100 years.

To realise this vision, we seek to raise a minimum of \$5 million by 2025 from donors and businesses who share our passion for agriculture education. Your generous support for Dookie students will help us ensure that the University of Melbourne can educate generations of capable and agile agriculture experts whose knowledge will transform agriculture, farming and food production.

## CONTACT

For more information, please contact:

**Jill McKenna**

Senior Development Manager  
Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences

T: +61 3 8344 2071

M: +61 410 599 912

E: [jill.mckenna@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jill.mckenna@unimelb.edu.au)

## SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH DOOKIE

You have the power to make a lifetime impact on Dookie students.

There are many possible ways in which to do so, ranging from scholarships and bursaries, through to travel grants, industry practical experience and mentoring opportunities.

As a donor, you can preference support for students who have demonstrated academic excellence or those experiencing financial hardship, and/or target specific groups. For example, gifts can support students from the Goulburn Valley, Indigenous Australians or PhD students experiencing financial hardship. The University can honour your support of Dookie students in various ways, with recognition opportunities available for individuals, families, organisations or graduating classes.

We encourage gifts of all sizes and ask that you consider a multi-year pledge to support Dookie scholarships and awards. A donation of \$5 000 will enable a Bachelor of Agriculture student to spend a semester at Dookie. A gift of \$50 000 pledged over five years will create a named award, and support two students annually for five years. Gifts totalling \$250 000 or more can be set up as named funds and held in the University's Common Fund (also known as the endowment fund) to support Dookie students for the next 100 years.

**“It was a joy to get to live and work at Dookie campus. I achieved great marks that semester: the best I had achieved in my time at uni. Learning something in a classroom, and then being able to apply it in the field, boosted my learning and development tenfold. None of this would have been possible without the scholarship.”**

**PATRICK CONLAN**

SECOND YEAR BACHELOR OF AGRICULTURE STUDENT AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT





# BELIEVE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE