

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Senior Finance Partner



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



POSITION DETAILS

Position Title	Senior Finance Business Partner
Classification	HEW 9
Position Number	Position Number
School/Office	Finance and Procurement
Division	Operations

POSITION PURPOSE

This role leads strategic financial partnering across the University, providing expert advice, analysis, and leadership to drive financial performance and enable evidence-based decision-making. As a senior member of the Finance Office, the Senior Finance Business Partner influences financial strategy, oversees complex planning and reporting, and manages key relationships with senior stakeholders.

The role contributes to the development and implementation of financial frameworks, supports major change initiatives, and builds financial capability across the University. It also provides leadership to direct reports and plays a key role in shaping the financial culture and maturity of client areas.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Lead strategic financial planning and analysis across designated portfolios, aligning financial outcomes with University priorities.
- Advise senior executives and client leaders on financial strategy, risk, and performance, enabling informed decision-making.
- Oversee budget and forecast development, ensuring accuracy, insight, and alignment with institutional frameworks.
- Drive financial discipline and accountability, embedding robust processes and controls across client areas.
- Design and implement financial models and reporting tools that support scenario planning and performance evaluation.
- Champion financial literacy and capability building, delivering training and guidance across the University.
- Manage and mentor finance staff, fostering a high-performance culture and supporting professional development.
- Contribute to major projects and change initiatives, providing financial leadership and integration support.
- Represent Finance on committees and working groups, influencing policy, systems, and service improvements.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- Postgraduate qualifications in Accounting, Finance, or a related field, or equivalent combination of experience and education.
- Extensive experience in financial strategy, planning, and business partnering within a complex organisation.
- Proven ability to influence senior stakeholders and translate financial data into strategic insight.
- Advanced proficiency in financial systems and tools (e.g. TM1, GLwand, Oracle).
- Strong understanding of Australian Accounting Standards and public sector financial frameworks.
- Demonstrated experience in leading finance teams and delivering high-impact outcomes.
- Excellent communication, stakeholder engagement, and relationship management skills.
- High-level organisational and analytical skills, with the ability to manage competing priorities and deliver quality outputs.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- This position reports to: Executive Director, Financial Planning and Strategy
- This position supervises: Management Accountants
- Key internal relationships:
 - Financial Performance and Partnerships Team
 - Chief Financial Officer
 - University Senior Executive Team
 - Divisional Staff

CHALLENGES

- Influencing financial decisions and strategy across diverse and decentralised client areas.
- Leading financial planning and reporting in a dynamic and evolving regulatory environment.
- Building financial capability and engagement among non-finance stakeholders.
- Managing complex stakeholder relationships and competing priorities.
- Driving innovation and continuous improvement in financial practices and systems.

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS

The University expects that all employees are aware of, and comply with legislation and Western's policies and procedures relevant to the position, including but not limited to:

- Code of Conduct
- Work Health and Safety and Wellbeing Management System
- Enterprise Agreement or Award
- Anti-discrimination principles, Equal Employment Opportunity and staff and student equity.

Approved by:

Date: