INSIDE:

Why choose USC

USC postgraduate research degree directory

Discover opportunities for research on the Sunshine Coast

Research USC

Higher Degrees by Research

www.usc.edu.au/hdr

University of the Sunshine Coast

The best of both worlds
The University of the Sunshine Coast is the only full-service university campus on the Sunshine Coast. Our 8,000-plus students (around 9% from overseas) enjoy a quality university experience and the relaxed Sunshine Coast lifestyle.

For teaching quality and graduate satisfaction, USC rates the highest of any public university in Queensland in The Good Universities Guide 2013.

A wide range of bachelor degrees and postgraduate studies are offered in the fields of Business (including tourism) and IT; Communication and Design; Education; Health (including nursing and midwifery); Humanities and Social Sciences; and Science and Engineering. Students have the option to complete part of their degree at one of our partner universities overseas.

Half of our students do not come directly from Year 12, bringing life and work experience to classes. Also, about half of USC students are the first in their family to take advantage of the opportunity uni offers. And now, more than 11,000 of our graduates are working on the coast, nationally and around the world.

USC research focuses on sustainability (including climate change adaptation), and geneecology (including aquaculture and forestry projects).

The University’s economic contribution to the Sunshine Coast region is estimated at $500 million annually.
Welcome from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

As one of the fastest growing universities in Australia, research is set for explosive growth at the University of the Sunshine Coast. Our new directions in research are exciting for students and are impacting on the region. Research underpins almost every aspect of our lives and communities. It contributes to the decision-making of individuals, organisations and governments, business and industry. Major findings can cause significant changes in society.

Our academics and students are tackling the key research issues that are precious to our region and livelihoods, incorporating areas as diverse as: climate change and sustainability; life sciences including forestry, fisheries, biomedical science and environmental science; health, exercise science and sport; education and social justice; community resilience; social sciences; tourism, marketing and management; accounting and finance; and creativity.

USC is earning national and international recognition through the work of its research centres and clusters (refer pages 4-7 for further information). USC is rapidly expanding its profile of academic excellence and is set to experience explosive growth in research over the next few years.

In a world of rapid growth, international competition and a competitive job market, postgraduate qualifications offer an edge that is unmatched by experience alone. Whether you are considering a Higher Degree by Research to enhance a previous degree, build on your existing work experience, or create a new beginning, USC will enable you to achieve your goals. The University proudly offers a range of student support services and flexible delivery to help you manage the demands of work, family and study.

As a research student at USC, you will work with leading academic staff in your field of research. Access to specialist skills and knowledgewill benefit you both personally and professionally. You will also join a growing postgraduate student cohort that is making its mark on the world.

USC's modern facilities and beautiful campus environment offer an enviable backdrop to further education. The local Sunshine Coast environment poses unique learning and research opportunities and USC uses specialist locations where relevant, including the World Heritage-listed Fraser Island and productive partnerships with external organisations such as Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, other national and international universities, and various major research providers within Australia.

I invite you to contact us to learn more about USC and the research programs in this guide. We look forward to meeting you.

Professor Roland De Marco
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)

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It's the best of both worlds. Students choose USC for its experienced academics, high-quality research supervision, student support and relaxed campus atmosphere.

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Choose from 11 research degrees on offer and specialise in research discipline areas such as Business and Information Technology, Communication and Design, Education, Health, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Engineering, or Sustainability.

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The best way to get a feel for the on-campus experience is to come and visit. USC students benefit from ready access to teaching and support staff in a friendly and modern campus environment.

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Financial support is available to help out with study costs and living expenses.

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Go further

Many USC students continue studying to gain further research qualifications. Research graduates make strong contributions to Australia’s innovations, economy, society, culture and environment.

HDR qualifications from USC can lead to careers in universities, research agencies, and research and development arms of private and public sector organisations.

An environment to explore

The Sunshine Coast’s environment and lifestyle provide great opportunities for research—many USC researchers specialise in climate change adaptation, aquaculture, tropical forestry, and sport and exercise. USC has collaborative agreements and specialised research centres and clusters that aim to address the region’s needs.

Collaborate and thrive

With dedicated research centres and clusters on campus you can join an established research team and enjoy the collegial environment and learning opportunities gained by working with experts in your field.

In 2011, USC was successful in a bid for a $5.45 million Collaborative Research Network (CRN) program. The three-year Research Futures Project partners with the University of Tasmania, Griffith University and The University of Queensland to undertake nationally significant research in water sciences, sustainability, forestry and aquaculture.

This program has already resulted in 25 newly appointed USC Research Fellows developing innovative research projects. The University is set to expand its current health training, education and research facilities when the Skills, Academic and Research Centre (SARC) is built as part of the $2.03 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital project, opening in 2016.

Choice of research opportunities

USC research specialises in genecology or sustainability, but there is a range of other fields to choose from:

In Communication and Design, you can pursue topics such as art and digital design, creative writing, and journalism.

If Humanities and Social Sciences are your passions, you can select areas such as law, human factors, environmental studies and planning, historical studies, political studies and international politics, psychology, or social sciences.

As a Business researcher, you can choose to explore accounting, entrepreneurship, information systems, management, marketing/international business, supply chain management or tourism.

In Health, you can undertake research in areas such as preventative health and rehabilitation or understanding and enhancing sports performance.

You can research developments in Education; and if your interest is in Science, you can investigate issues such as coastal management, climate change, water management, natural and cultural heritage, innovation, adaptive growth, and community wellbeing.

Expert supervision

Be supervised and supported by some of the most highly qualified researchers in the country. USC’s academics are experts in delivering a quality education and creating an interactive, friendly and supportive learning environment.

The University earned five stars for teaching quality in the 2013 Good Universities Guide—the only public university in Queensland to be awarded five stars in this category.

You could study alongside experts like Professor Abigail Elizur, who partnered research on ‘tank-bred tuna’ that claimed second place in Time magazine’s report on the 50 best inventions of 2009.
Research concentrations

Late in 2012 the University announced the establishment of three new research clusters and two new research centres, and confirmed its commitment to the current Sustainability Research Centre.

These research centres and clusters provide leadership in the University’s research expansion and capability. In addition, two new research themes have been developed in the areas of accident research and indigenous studies.

Research Centres:
- **Sustainability Research Centre (SRC)**—committed to research that supports the transformation of society towards sustainability.
- **Genecology Research Centre**—genetics, ecology, genomics and physiology.
- **Forest Industries Research Centre (FIRC)**—the economic and environmental sustainability of forest industries and the forest supply chain.

Research Clusters:
- **Inflammation and Healing Research Cluster (Inflame)**—investigating the molecular, immunological and physiological mechanisms underlying dysfunctional inflammatory responses leading to common chronic and autoimmune diseases.
- **Cluster for Health Improvement (CHI)**—research areas include health sustainability, nutrition, quality of life and wellbeing, healthcare continuum, health and the environment, and health care training and education.
- **Engage Research**—researching collaborative solutions to challenging social problems through innovative digital technologies.

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) rankings

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) is a federal Government benchmarking exercise developed to rank the research performance of Australian universities on a global scale.

The University of the Sunshine Coast’s performance in the disciplines of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences representing Fisheries Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Horticultural Production was ranked above world standard, with the disciplines of Biological Sciences representing Ecology, Microbiology, Plant Biology and Zoology achieving a world standard rating. This demonstrates that USC’s broad strategy of focusing and growing research capacity in the niche areas of Forestry and Aquaculture is working successfully.

In the areas of Studies in Creative Arts and Writing representing Visual Arts and Crafts; Performing Arts and Creative Writing; Journalism and Professional Writing; and Film, Television and Professional Writing; and the areas of Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services representing Business and Management; Marketing; tourism; and Accounting, Auditing and Accountability the University’s ERA result was close to world standard. These ERA outcomes indicate that USC’s research in these cognate disciplines is close to the international standard and there is room to move to world standard when the next ERA assessment is undertaken in 2015.

Collaborative Research Networks: USC Research Futures Project

In 2011, USC was awarded $5.45 million as part of the Commonwealth Government’s Collaborative Research Networks (CRN) program. This program enables regional universities to build research capacity in areas of common interest with partnering universities. To date, USC has recruited around 30 outstanding Research Fellows and Senior Research Fellows via the CRN Program, USC Research Fellowships and Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council Fellowships.

Significant growth in research capacity is reflected by a major boost in research activity. USC is already seeing success through the CRN program: Dr Tomer Ventura from Israel has been awarded an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) valued at $371,800 and will now have the funds to expand on his research and develop a team with a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and a postgraduate student.

Associate Professor Neil Powell has also been successful in bringing in a valuable network project with international researchers for the Sustainability Research Centre.

High impact research

- USC hosted two of Australia’s four Fulbright Senior Specialist Awardees in 2012. The aim of the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program is to assist Australian educational institutions to exchange expertise and build collaborative linkages with USA faculty professionals on curriculum and faculty development, and institutional planning.
- The University more than doubled its research income in 2012, compared to 2011. This enhanced research productivity has been driving the enrolment of a higher number of postgraduate students.
- Dr Scott Cummins is conducting pioneering research in the biological sciences with his project studying the chemical signaling of pheromones in the animal kingdom. In 2010, he published a seminal paper in the international journal *Nature* on the draft genome sequence of *Amphimedon queenslandica*, a demosponge from the Great Barrier Reef. The research demonstrated that the demosponge is remarkably similar to other animal genomes in content, structure and organisation. This research also revealed that genomic events are linked to the origin and early evolution of animals, including the appearance, expansion and diversification of transcription factors in the signaling pathway.
- Professor Mark Brown, Director of the Forest Industries Research Centre (FIRC) and Australian Forestry Operations Alliance (AFORA), has established intellectual property around a forest trucking optimisation algorithm and tool known as FastTRUCK. This tool has been found to have far-reaching repercussions for the forest logging component of the industry, generating significant annual cost savings of millions of dollars for major forest companies.

![A new $250,000 microscope has boosted the research efforts of USC Research Fellow Dr Scott Cummins and PhD student Jorge Amat-Fernandez.](image-url)

Associate Professor Neil Powell will co-lead a three-year international research project on climate change adaptation and water governance (CADWAGO) after the joint proposal won a grant of one million Euros.
The University of the Sunshine Coast is in a period of rapid research development and growth, building research productivity and output through strategic partnerships and collaborations.

The University is developing its significant research activities into research centres, clusters and themes to foster research focus, build research capacity, enrich Higher Degree Research (HDR) training and provide a stimulating and supportive research environment for early career and experienced researchers.

Research at USC is currently focused on applied genetics in primary production and regional sustainability.

**Research concentrations**

- **GeneCology Research Centre**
- **Sustainability Research Centre**
- **Engage Research Cluster**
- **Forest Industries Research Centre**
- **Indigenous Studies**
- **USC Accident Research**
- **Inflammation and Healing Research Cluster**
- **Cluster for Health Improvement**
GeneCology Research Centre

The GeneCology Research Centre operates in the research areas of genetics, ecology and physiology, in both plant and animal systems and in the terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Led by Directors Professor Abigail Elizur and Professor Helen Wallace, the centre conducts research in the sustainable production of aquaculture, horticulture, grains and forestry systems, biodiversity conservation and sustainable urban forestry and horticulture.

The GeneCology Research Centre is actively engaged with major industries through ongoing partnerships in aquaculture, horticulture, ecological services, water quality and biodiscovery.

Research is delivering discoveries in pathogenesis and virulence of disease agents, propagation of rare and endangered plant species, conservation genetics, plant reproduction, and the application of advanced genetics and genomics to marine protein sources, cellular science and biodiscovery.

Key research areas

- aquaculture
- forestry and plant science
- ecology
- microbiology
- functional genomics and proteomics
- biochemistry and molecular engineering
- bio-modelling

Research projects

- Dr Tomer Ventura: ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award $371,800 ‘Understanding masculinity, the crustacean way’.
- Dr Scott Cummins in conjunction with Professor Bernie Degnan at The University of Queensland: joint ARC Discovery Project grant $454,000 ‘Origin of genomically-encoded communication in animals: deciphering the role of peptide signalling in the sea sponge’.
- Professor Abigail Elizur and Associate Professor Wayne Knibb: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research grant $146,000 ‘Controlling Giant Grouper maturation, spawning and juvenile production in Vietnam, the Philippines and Australia’.
- Dr Renfu Shao, Professor Abigail Elizur, Dr Scott Cummins, Dr Tomer Ventura and Mr Daniel Powell: Australia-China Science Research Fund grant $45,000 ‘Collaboration with the Beijing Genomics Institute to strengthen genomics research capacity’.

Directors
Professor Abigail Elizur
www.usc.edu.au/abigail-elizur
Professor Helen Wallace
www.usc.edu.au/helen-wallace

Sustainability Research Centre

The Sustainability Research Centre (SRC) is focused on sustainable communities and sustainable environments. The SRC is committed to research that supports the transformation of society towards sustainability.

While SRC’s research encompasses a range of disciplines and undertakes transdisciplinary research, its core focus is aligned with social, behavioural and economic sciences. Focus areas can be applied to a range of sustainability issues such as coastal management, climate change, and water management (recognised as significant at local through to international scales). SRC researchers address real on-the-ground concerns of society and the environment.

The SRC’s niche area of research is societal adaptation—more specifically, understanding the social dimensions of regional environmental change. Its disciplinary focus is on the social sciences (eg geography and cultural studies).

Key research areas

- sustainability science
- resilience
- adaptive capacity
- social learning
- social capital
- adaptive management
- natural resource governance
- Indigenous knowledge
- community livelihoods

Research projects

- Dr Tim Smith (Queensland DAFF Adjunct Researcher) and Associate Professor Neil Tindale: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Filling the Research Gap Project $339,300 ‘Soil Carbon benefits through Reforestation in Sub-tropical and Tropical Australia’.
- Associate Professor Neil Powell: Climate Change Adaptation and Water Governance international scheme $450,000 ‘Reconciling food security, renewable energy and the provision of multiple ecosystem services’.

Director
Professor Tim Smith
www.usc.edu.au/tim-smith
Forest Industries Research Centre

The Forest Industries Research Centre (FIRC) focuses on issues relating to the forestry value chain, that is the economic and environmental sustainability of forest industries. Research concentrates on tropical and sub-tropical forestry and the processing of novel commercial species to support a strong value-added processing sector.

Supporting this is the Australian Forest Operations Research Alliance (AFORA), established by USC to continue the collaborative forest supply chain research established by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Forestry.

The aim of FIRC is to conduct world-class research with collaborating industry, national and international partners to:

• improve the understanding of increasingly complex forestry value chains, and
• expand the knowledge of how the links of the value chain interact and how they can be managed to add value, and
• develop a clearer understanding of its place and impact within the broader forest value network which encompasses all the values of a forest.

Key research areas

• genetics and genomics
• silviculture and stand management
• forest health and pest management
• ecology and biodiversity management
• timber and biomass harvest and haulage
• fibre quality and value
• timber processing and biorefinery
• renewable energy and biofuels
• timber construction materials

Research projects

• Professor Mark Brown: establishment of the Australian Forestry Operations Research Alliance (AFORA) valued at $324,000, incorporating 18 partners across all states of Australia.
• Associate Professor David Lee: Australia-China Science Research Fund grant $28,010 'Collaboration with the China Eucalypt Research Centre on disease resistance screening to protect trees from eucalyptus rust and other pathogens'.

Inflammation and Healing Research Cluster

The aim of the Inflammation and Healing Research Cluster (Inflame) is to ease human suffering and the significant burden of health care costs. With a team of productive biomedical and public health researchers, Inflame’s research investigates the molecular, immunological and physiological mechanisms underlying dysfunctional inflammatory responses leading to common chronic and autoimmune diseases.

These currently include asthma, cardiovascular disease, infectious diseases, arthritis, obesity, inflammatory bowel disease and cancer.

Current Inflame research projects range from the molecular to the environment (macroscopic) and aim to take a multidisciplinary approach.

Key research areas

• molecular, immunological, and physiological mechanisms
• environmental and host factors and their interaction
• methods for prevention, diagnosis and interventions

Research projects

• Dr David McMillan in collaboration with researchers at Griffith University and Queensland Institute for Medical Research was awarded an NHMRC Project grant $944,798 'The SAVE Trial: Securing All intravenous devices Effectively in hospitals. A randomised controlled trial'.

Director
Associate Professor Shelley Walton
www.usc.edu.au/shelley-walton

Engage Research Cluster

The Engage Research Cluster aims to find collaborative solutions to challenging social problems through innovative digital technologies.

Researchers develop interactive technologies such as computer games, smartphone and tablet applications, social media and artworks, where users can become involved, informed and inspired to change the world.

The Engage Research Cluster’s first computer game, Being Safety Smart, was designed to protect children from abduction. Adopted by more than 750 schools around the world, the game received a gold award for Excellence in Crime Prevention from the Queensland Police Service.

The Engage Research Cluster comprises researchers from a variety of disciplines such as mental health, positive psychology, nursing, public health, health promotion, social sciences, counselling, planning, art and design, information technology, game design, education, engineering, HR and business. We collaborate with industry and academic leaders to develop and use cutting edge interactive technologies.

Key research areas

• computer games
• health and wellbeing
• interactive technologies
• environment and community engagement
• immersion and simulation

Research projects

• Associate Professor Christian Jones, Professor Mary Katsikitis, and PhD student Melody Muscat: funded by the auDA Foundation, Queensland Health, DRUG ARM and the DrinkSafe Coalition ‘Knowing You, Knowing Me—online mother and daughter alcohol misuse minimisation program’.
• ‘Researching into computer games’ and ‘flourishing mental health’, in partnership with the $27M federal funded Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre.
• Orbit, a computer game that helps to protect children from sexual abuse, received $800,000 in funding in a partnership with the Telstra Foundation, Queensland Police Service and the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

Director
Associate Professor Christian Jones
www.usc.edu.au/christian-jones
www.engageresearch.org

EngageResearch
EngageResearch
@Engage_Research

“Research took me to the Engage Research Cluster, where I work with other researchers to address pressing social concerns, using innovative technologies.”

Ben Rolfe
Student, Doctor of Creative Arts
Cluster for Health Improvement

The Cluster for Health Improvement (CHI) aims to act as a catalyst for the advancement of sustainable communities through a holistic approach to health and social wellbeing.

CHI provides a university-based translational health and performance research facility with its major partner, the Sunshine Coast-Wide Bay Health Service District.

Together, they seek to foster and develop further relationships with service providers, industry and the community, including the Skills, Academic and Research Centre (SARC), due to begin in 2016 with the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Health Service.

Researchers with the Cluster for Health Improvement have national and international research profiles and are recognised leaders in the areas of public health, health promotion, rehabilitation and human performance research.

Key research areas
- clinical exercise physiology
- health sustainability
- nutrition
- quality of life and wellbeing
- health care continuum
- health and the environment
- health care training and education

Research projects
- Professor John Lowe: a member of a partnership awarded $2,454,998 under the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence scheme for its five-year study of antibiotic resistance in acute respiratory infections.
- Associate Professor Chris Askew, in collaboration with James Cook University and several other national and international research groups, is a member of the NHMRC funded Centre for Research Excellence in Peripheral Arterial Diseases. His current research includes clinical investigations of exercise therapy in patients with cardiovascular diseases, as well as experimental studies of the physiological mechanisms of exercise intolerance in patients with chronic disease.
- Professor Marion Gray and Associate Professor Fiona Pelly have a currently funded Wishlist project in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service looking at the effectiveness of a home based individually tailored program for promoting healthier dietary and exercise behaviours in people with mental health conditions living at a mental health community care unit.
- Professor Brendan Burckett, Dr Mark McKean and Dr Danielle Formosa: Queensland Health research grant to determine the rehabilitation protocols for the Osseointegration of transfemoral amputees.

Indigenous Studies Research Theme

Indigenous Studies research focuses on the cultures, histories, rights, interests, knowledges and perspectives of Indigenous peoples throughout the world. It also incorporates the intercultural spaces of colonialism, neocolonialism and postcolonialism with particular attention to racism, and the global and national state structures and processes that impact on Indigenous peoples, incorporating a focus on Indigenous peoples’ responses to these.

USC researcher Dr Tristan Pearce and Inuit researcher Adam Kudlak collaborating on the Nunamin Illihakvia project in the western Canadian Arctic.

Indigenous Studies is the first research theme formally endorsed in the Sustainability Research Centre.

Indigenous Studies is an area of importance to all Australians in order to fully bring about equity and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in all areas of Australian life.

Key research areas
- land/territories (eg Indigenous peoples and sustainable livelihoods, protected areas, climate change)
- cultural, heritage and identity studies (eg place-based identity, self-concept, literature, representation and art, curatorial and museum studies)
- cultural, social, historical, and institutional systems and contexts that affect Indigenous peoples (eg local knowledge, governance, racism studies, community aspirations, industry practices)
- education (eg reconciliation, cultural competency, educational transition pathways)

Research projects
- Dr Maria Raciti: Indigenous educational pathways and recommendations.
- ‘RECOGNISE project (Sunshine Coast ‘Recognise for Change’), funded by You Me Unity, a collaborative project between Mimbirri, University of the Sunshine Coast, HCDAC, the Maleny neighbourhood Centre, and You Me Unity.
- Dr Tristan Pearce: Nunamin Illihakvia project, funded by Health Canada. The research project is a step towards a new Inuit-led cultural education dedicated to enabling the transfer of traditional knowledge, skill sets and values, based on Inuit knowledge and guiding principles in a changing climate.

University of the Sunshine Coast Accident Research

The newly established University of the Sunshine Coast Accident Research Centre (USCAR) team aims to develop a leading capability in accident and safety-related research.

USCAR’s research aims to inform the design of systems that optimise human performance and safety. This goal is achieved through applying the latest theories and methods from human factors and systems thinking to develop appropriate interventions to remove these problems.

USCAR is led by Associate Professor Paul Salmon, recruited from Monash University, who brought with him Discovery and Linkage grants and an NHMRC Training Fellowship, in the area of accident research.

Current collaborations include the Monash University Accident Research Centre, the Transportation Group at the University of Southampton, Heriot Watt University, and the Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety (CARRS-Q) at the Queensland University of Technology.

Key research areas
- transportation (road, rail, aviation, maritime)
- workplace safety
- disaster preparedness, response, and recovery
- defence
- outdoor recreation

Research projects
- Associate Professor Paul Salmon in collaboration with Monash University and the University of Southampton, ARC Discovery, ‘An innovative theory driven approach to enhancing situation awareness among road users in Australia.’
- USCAR in collaboration with the University of Ballarat and Monash University, ARC Linkage, ‘Understanding and preventing injury in the led outdoor activity domain: A theory driven approach to injury surveillance and prevention.’
- USCAR in collaboration with the Monash University Accident Research Centre ‘Preventing manual handling injuries through a systems approach’.

Director
Associate Professor Paul Salmon
www.usc.edu.au/paul-salmon
The University of the Sunshine Coast supports research in the following areas:

**Accident research**

Our accident and safety-related research focuses on understanding and enhancing system performance in order to improve safety and remove threats to public health. Underpinned by a human factors systems approach and focusing on public health and safety-related issues, we research in transportation (road, rail, aviation, maritime), workplace safety, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, defence, and outdoor recreation. Refer to USC Accident Research on page 7.

**Accounting**


**Art and digital design**

In the field of art and digital design, research includes studies of Aboriginal art and culture, environmental and contemporary art, aesthetics, curatorship, visual culture and visual literacy, as well as a range of applied design fields including graphic design, 3D design, 3D printing and fabrication, electronic media design, photo media, imaging and video technologies, game development, mobile gaming, application design, information design and visualisation.

**Biomedical sciences**

The contemporary field of biomedical science uses the study of life processes to gain an understanding of health and the methods for diagnosing, analysing and treating disease. Our biomedical science research expertise includes: exercise metabolism and nutrition, obesity and cardiovascular disease, physical activity and fitness, medical microbiology, immunology, infectious disease and pathogenesis, molecular basis of emerging parasitic drug resistance, biomaterialisation, neurobiology/muscle physiology, cardiovascular function, wound healing, and biomolecular studies of infectious diseases.

**Climate change**

Global environmental change has a number of dramatic consequences for local communities and other sectors of society. Managing global challenges such as climate change requires understanding of a range of areas including sensitivity, vulnerability, risk, adaptation and adaptive capacity in order to create resilient societies. Refer to Sustainability Research Centre on page 5.

**Coastal management**

Most of the world’s population is located in coastal regions. Integrated coastal management is a globally recognised approach to managing coastal pressures and creating sustainable coastal livelihoods. Our research investigates social and ecological systems, institutional arrangements, community engagement, livelihoods, and community development. Refer to Sustainability Research Centre on page 5.

**Communication and media studies**

Research in communication and media studies includes areas such as new communications technologies, screen production cultures, national identity and communication policy, convergence, and industry education. With a strong focus on practice-led research, researchers examine and analyse industries and issues that have recently undergone a period of rapid technological, regulatory and economic change.

**Counselling**

Counselling and psychotherapy are applied professional disciplines and our research focus is oriented to practical. Research areas include: the therapeutic relationship, counsellor education, counsellor identity, cultural diversity in counselling, marriage and family counselling, supervision in counselling, Jungian psychotherapy, positive psychology and mindfulness practices, somatic psychology and body, mind/spirit integration, problem gambling, addictions, violence and crime prevention, situation harm reduction, suicide, grief and loss, client-directed and outcome-informed counselling, mental health, aged care, case study research and transpersonal psychotherapy.

**Creative writing**

Research in creative writing covers a broad range of genres and audiences, such as writing fiction for adults, young adults and children; and forms such as short story collections, novels, illustrated novels, graphic novels and picture books for both print and electronic media. Research includes the production of a creative artefact (such as noted above) and an exegesis (a theoretical accompaniment exploring the innovation, derivation and significance of the creative artefact).

**Drama**

Research of, and within, drama covers a broad range of areas including: theatrical scripts, theatrical performances, applied theatre, cabaret performances, actor training, performer training, performance art, and general performance studies. Research in the field of drama includes the production of a creative artefact (such as noted above) and an exegesis (a theoretical accompaniment exploring the innovation, derivation and significance of the creative artefact).

**Education**

Research into education can help teachers and educators to understand what works and why, what the short- and long-term implications are, provide a justification and rationale for decisions and actions, build a repertoire to help deal with the unexpected, identify problems, or inform improvement. Our education research expertise includes: school curriculum, school renewal, education for sustainability, pedagogy, curriculum and assessment in international contexts, professional learning, use of educational digital technologies, cognition and learning, intercultural language learning, educational leadership, equity issues in education, workplace learning strategies, and social change through education.

**Engineering**

Engineers shape our physical environment through addressing the critical technological challenges of the day. Our particular interests are evolving over time with our research expertise currently including: water-sensitive urban design, pavement technology and performance, climate change mitigation, sustainability, cold regions engineering, development and employment of Remote or Autonomous Vehicles (RAVs) for research purposes, wastewater management, technology-based business development, and computer modelling and analysis.
Entrepreneurship and innovation
If entrepreneurship is your focus, consider researching in entrepreneurial attitudes, abilities and intentions, risk recognition and risk reduction. Other interest areas are start-up innovation, strategies for commercialising technological innovation, venture capital, intellectual property rights, organisational competence, new venture management, entrepreneurship, strategic management, venture capital financing, eBusiness, technological and organisational evolution, innovation diffusion, and social entrepreneurship.

Geography
Geography is the study of the interactions between humans and their environments in different places, regions and spaces. Its holistic understanding of society and the environment is used to explore where, how and why different cultures, political systems, social groups, economic systems, landscapes and environments have emerged in different places or at different scales, and what this means for our collective future. It is particularly useful for the global cross-cutting challenges of our time such as ensuring sustainability, engaging with global diversity, and countering inequities and access to resources of marginalised peoples within and between different nations. Our geography research includes animal geography, children’s geographies, Indigenous peoples’ engagement in environmental management, rural and regional geography, environmental geography, and cultural geography.

Historical studies
Expertise in historical research includes education, exhibitions and museums, gender relations, heritage studies, labour history, world history, Indigenous history, macrohistory and social change, migration, race relations, transnational history, Italian history, political history, sport history, history of emotions, social and cultural history, and oral history.

Indigenous studies
Indigenous studies is an area of importance to all Australians in order to fully bring about equity and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in all areas of Australian life. Indigenous studies focuses on the cultures, histories, rights, interests, knowledge and perspectives of Indigenous peoples throughout the world. It also incorporates the intercultural spaces of colonialism, neocolonialism and postcolonialism with particular attention to racism, and the global and national state structures and processes that impact on Indigenous peoples, incorporating a focus on Indigenous peoples’ responses to these. Current research expertise lies in research around land/territories (eg Indigenous peoples and sustainable livelihoods, protected areas, climate change); cultural, heritage and identity studies (eg place-based identity, self-concept, representation and art, curatorial and museum studies); the cultural, social, historical, and institutional systems and contexts that affect Indigenous peoples (eg local knowledge, governance, racism studies, community aspirations, industry practices), and education (eg reconciliation, cultural competency, educational transition pathways). Refer to Indigenous Studies Research Theme on page 7.

Informatics
Informatics plays a vital role in business and can explore the following business and health related non-technical topics: business analytics, business value of information technology, change management, electronic business, electronic commerce and the digital economy, end-user computing training and support, ICT work-arounds such as feral information systems and Information Systems (IS) management such as information system planning, strategy formulation and effectiveness measures.

Interactive technologies and games
Take your part in shaping the digital future by researching computer games, serious games, games for health and wellbeing, smartphone and tablet technologies, social media, biometric sensing and feedback, adaptive technologies, affective computing (emotion research), interactive art, visual communication, human-computer interaction, gamification, alternative reality gaming, gesture-based interaction, speech technologies, simulation, and 3D printing. Join our researchers working with emerging technologies and collaborating with international high-tech companies on large-scale technologies to change the world. Refer to Engage Research Cluster on page 6.

International economics and finance
Rapid globalisation has led to increased interdependence among countries. Issues attracting the attention of researchers include the impact of foreign direct investment on firm productivity, product quality and exports. Other areas of research include firm capital structure, international finance issues such as exchange rate exposure puzzle, and the finance and development nexus.

Internet media studies
Internet media studies researches how the lines between real and virtual, traditional and new are being blurred through ‘prosumer/produser’ interactivity. Research in this multi-disciplinary area examines the shifting notion of power and the flow of cultural meanings and artefacts and their legal, ethical, social and political implications on the wellbeing of individuals, communities and society at large.

Journalism
Research in journalism addresses issues such as studies of journalists’ professional views, comparative studies of journalists and the media, international journalism, media coverage of disasters and death, journalism theory, journalism and conflict, Indigenous journalism, lifestyle journalism, journalism education, online journalism, citizen and participatory journalism, the role of social media in journalism and the relationship between public relations and journalism.

Law
Our law research focuses on significant issues that address many of the world’s contemporary challenges. Join us to research in areas of health law, elder law, anti-discrimination law, public law, contracts, consumer law and civil penalties.

Management and international business
In management, choose to research supply chain management, value chain, leadership, organisational and professional commitment, organisational behaviour and work-related values/value congruence, organisational conflict, organisational development, organisational learning, performance measures, regional development, small business management, strategic management, HRM practices, workforce diversity, health administration management, strategy, team dynamics, total quality management, global culture dynamics, cultural change and environmental management systems.

Marketing
You can research in consumer behaviour, marketing education, services marketing and social marketing, in a variety of contexts (local, national and international), using a wide variety of methodological approaches.

Natural resource management
The use, preservation and management of natural resources is contested between various stakeholders and interests. Focus areas include decision-making, planning, sustainable tourism, and monitoring and evaluation. As part of our water governance team, you can also research into governance of water resources, institutional arrangements, stakeholder perspectives, attitudes and values. Refer to Sustainability Research Centre on page 5.

Nursing and midwifery
In the field of nursing and midwifery, research includes studies of these disciplines’ history, clinical interventions and their effectiveness, approaches to education and training, and issues that improve client, family and community care. Our research expertise includes: health service evaluation, maternal and child health, childbirth education, assisted conception and breastfeeding, early parenting and adjustments, practice development in midwifery and nursing, transcultural issues, professional nursing issues, development of resilience in nurse education and practice, nursing history, the use of technology and simulation-based learning in nursing programs, resuscitation and quality of life.

Nutrition and dietetics
Nutrition and dietetics research aims to improve the health of individuals, communities and populations by applying an understanding of human nutrition that is informed by a variety of knowledge areas. Research expertise includes: food choice and dietary behaviours, food provision and energy expenditure for athletes, capacity building in public health nutrition, and maternal and infant nutrition.

Occupational therapy
Occupational therapy research establishes a scientific basis for therapy and then integrates this research with clinical practice. Our occupational therapy research expertise includes: mental health, ageing, chronic disease, quality assurance processes in health care, men’s health and wellbeing, the use of treatment games, occupational therapy education and employment.
Paramedic sciences

Paramedics have increasing requirements to provide a wider range of treatment options and to broaden their role in the emergency and unplanned care environment. Research in paramedicine contributes to the body of knowledge and evaluates implications in the paramedic profession. Our paramedical science research interests and expertise include: clinical decision-making and diagnostic reasoning, evidence-based practice, palliative care, assessment and management of pain in paramedic practice, health law, clinical leadership and enhancing community safety.

Planning

Planning research focuses on integration between land-use planning and transport, ageing in place and affordable housing, coastal governance, planning for climate change, water demand planning, and the effectiveness of alternative dispute resolution. Refer to Sustainability Research Centre on page 5.

Politics and international relations

Political research includes areas such as Australian politics and foreign policy, citizenship, social movements, electoral policy, public policy and public sector management, governance, human rights, Indonesia–Australia relations, Japan–Australia relations, Japanese politics, Northeast Asian security, Japanese security issues, Australia in Asia and international relations theory.

Property economics and development

As an enduring and tangible asset, property is the popular investment choice for wealth creation. For some, it provides an investment opportunity, for others a place to work, rest or play, but for all it is an integral part of our environment. Our research focus is on optimising decision-making processes as well as influencing urban development and land-use in our region.

Psychology

Research in psychology addresses the mental process of human behaviour. Our expertise covers relationships and communication between mothers and daughters; gaming psychology; phenylketonuria (PKU) and mental health; alcohol and other drug use; body image, diet and exercise; cognition, including attention and memory; cognitive development; metacognition, anxiety and trauma conditions; cultural and cognitive perspectives on hope; health psychology across the lifespan; positive psychology factors as predictors of health, work-life balance; personal diversity; clinical psychology; refugee mental health and wellbeing; social inclusion; social psychological determinants of protective health behaviour; and sport and exercise psychology.

Public communication and promotion

In the interdisciplinary area of public communication and promotion, research draws from communication and media studies, public relations, advertising, health promotion and social marketing to question and examine the construction, representation, circulation and reception of promotional discourses and symbols including edutainment in the public arena. The field deconstructs public and commercial campaigns and engages with public/audience responses and participation in an increasingly mediatised and viral environment.

Public health

Our focus is on the betterment of public health through research in: key issues affecting the health of populations; obtaining, reviewing and analysing health information; and planning and managing health programs or projects. Our research expertise in public health includes: teaching and application of mathematics and statistics, quantitative and qualitative health risk assessment, water-related health risks, climate change adaptation, environmental epidemiology, and indicators of ecosystem health.

Public relations and advocacy

Research in public relations and advocacy explores the complex relationship between and among social entities such as government, non-government and business organisations, including nations of diverse political leanings, via critical and empirical work. Explore research such as the global news media in international conflicts, the use of social and alternative media for citizen journalism and grassroots advocacy, the impact of new and emerging media on the identities of public individuals and organisations, or how soft power and diplomacy are deployed in issues management and damage control.

Science and environmental science

Scientists have long sought to understand the fundamental principles of the land, life, water, and air that surround us. These, and the functioning of environmental systems, are important areas of research for the next generation. Our research expertise includes: physiology, genetics and ecology of plants and animals, climate change adaptation, science curriculum design and evaluation, microbial ecology and biotechnology, bioconversion of waste, bioremediation and bioprocessing, biological control of crop diseases, coastal ecology and conservation, ecology and population genetics, geographical information systems, aquatic pollution and geochemistry, social and sustainability learning, theoretical and analytical chemistry, conservation genetics and conservation ecology, fauna, flora, and marine life and systems.

Social sciences

Social science is fundamentally concerned with human societies and behaviour. In this area is orientated towards issues of social inclusion, inequality and justice. Our research investigates alcohol and drug dependencies, Australian racism and anti-racism, child protection, counselling (child, adolescent and family) and therapeutic practice frameworks, development and underdevelopment in the global south, rural and regional development, welfare and public policy, marginalised children and young people, families, gender, health, mental health, aged care, disabilities, cultural diversity, environmental sustainability, gambling, globalisation, grief and loss, migration, organisational change, religion, futures studies, work, employment, state policy and Indigenous issues, social theory and research methodology, and violence and crime prevention.

Social work

Social work research at USC draws on social science knowledge and methods including newer, innovative approaches such as critical reflection to develop creative responses to social issues. Critical research aims to generate knowledge that contributes to a more socially just, equitable, democratic and sustainable world. Critical approaches to research are used to: analyse social policies; power relations and oppressive practices that lead to social, political, cultural or gendered disadvantage faced by vulnerable citizen groups and communities; formulate creative responses to social disadvantage and inequality; promote human rights; and promote ethical standards.

Sport and exercise sciences

Research in sport and exercise science is focused on human physiology and mechanics and its application to human health, exercise and sports performance. Our research interests and expertise include: sports biomechanics; technology and software developments; recovery techniques for training fatigue; science communication for coaches, athletes and officials; elite athlete career development and transition; correction of performance errors; analysing and enhancing athletic performance, strength and power training; anaerobic and aerobic conditioning; movement quality and function; exercise for disease management, injury rehabilitation, and lifelong health and wellbeing.

Sustainability

The core focus of sustainability aligns with the social, behavioural and economic sciences. In addressing concerns of society and the environment, this important transdisciplinary research area offers a broad spectrum of opportunity. Combine research across a range of disciplines to explore your own view of this transforming concept. Refer to Sustainability Research Centre on page 5.

Tourism, leisure and events

Conduct research in tourism, leisure and events within the idyllic tourist destination of Queensland’s Sunshine Coast, and in partnerships with government and private enterprise locally, nationally and internationally. Our research covers marine and coastal tourism, culinary tourism and events, event portfolio management, Asia-Pacific tourism development, dive tourism, eco and sustainable tourism, sports event tourism, festival and event marketing and management, tourist behaviour, values and self-concept theory, innovations in tourism, tourism and social media, destination management, tourism policy and decision-making, social capital and social networks, work integrated learning, and small business tourism.
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* Not available to international students on a Student visa.

International students, please note: Programs without a CRICOS provider number are not available to international students on a Student visa.
For CRICOS registered programs, only the on-campus full-time study option is available to international students on a Student visa.
Doctor of Creative Arts

Full-time: 3 years
Part-time: 6 years
Study mode: internal or external
Commences: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 041914G
Only a full-time option is available to international students on a Student visa.
Faculty: Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: www.usc.edu.au/AR911

The Doctor of Creative Arts is a research higher degree designed for professionals such as academics, writers, producers or art directors with existing industry experience, who wish to further their critical and theoretically informed research capacity.

Research areas
This program is offered in areas including:
• Creative writing
• Art and digital design
• Interactive technologies and games

Refer to page 8 for examples of research in these areas.

Program structure
The Doctor of Creative Arts is awarded for an original and significant contribution of merit achieved through a program of advanced research and study in a branch of learning in the creative arts, carried out under supervision.

As a candidate, you are required to produce one or more highly original creative arts products, together with an exegesis. The creative arts product/s and exegesis are judged by independent experts applying accepted contemporary international standards. You may be required to undertake activities, such as specified courses, seminars or reading activities, in addition to and as a support for the production of the creative arts product/s and exegesis.

Where such activities are required, they shall be specified as a condition of candidature by the Committee and undertaken under the direction of the relevant Dean. The Dean is required to advise the Committee that the additional requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Doctor of Creative Arts are normally required to hold a master level degree or a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division I from a recognised higher education institution. Applicants who have completed a bachelor degree and have achieved by subsequent work and study a standard equivalent to at least Honours Class 2 Division I may also be considered. In exceptional cases applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degrees Committee. International students need to refer to the University’s English language requirements www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguageqqs

Doctor of Philosophy

Full-time: 3 years
Part-time: 6 years
Study mode: internal or external
Commences: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 07937D
Only a full-time option is available to international students on a Student visa.
Faculty: Arts and Business

Science, Health, Education and Engineering

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: www.usc.edu.au/phd

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is an advanced research program that fosters the development of independent research skills, scholarly analysis and an ability to communicate research findings.

The University of the Sunshine Coast has a team of enthusiastic and experienced academics able to provide supervision across a broad range of research areas. Prospective applicants wishing to undertake a PhD will need to find a suitable supervisor by contacting the relevant faculty or the Office of Research.

Research areas
Candidates may nominate any area of research supported by a USC supervisor. Refer pages 8-10 for research areas supported within each faculty.

Program structure
The Doctor of Philosophy is the main Doctoral degree offered by this University. It is awarded solely on the basis of a thesis produced under supervision that makes an original, significant and extensive contribution to knowledge in the relevant field of study, as judged by independent experts applying accepted contemporary international standards.

As a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy, you may be required to undertake study, such as a research methodology course or other specified courses, seminars or reading activities, in addition to and as a support for your research. Where such activities are required, they shall be specified as a condition of candidature by the Committee and undertaken under the direction of the relevant Associate Dean (Research). The Associate Dean (Research) is required to advise the Committee that the additional requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

Alternative thesis presentation
Doctoral candidates may be permitted to present a collection of thematically linked research articles in lieu of a thesis. This approach may only be pursued with the advance permission of the Committee at the time of confirmation. The research articles must be based wholly on research undertaken by the candidate during their candidature for the Doctoral degree. The number and type of research articles and the form in which they are to be presented for examination will be specified.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Doctor of Philosophy are normally required to hold:
• a bachelor degree with Honours Class 1 or Class 2 Division I from a recognised higher education institution
or
• a research master degree or coursework master degree with a significant research component equivalent to honours degree research component from a recognised higher education institution
or
• a bachelor degree from a recognised higher education institution and achieved by subsequent work and study a standard equivalent to at least Honours Class 2 Division I as may be approved by the committee
or
• a record of research or professional qualifications deemed by the committee to be of a standard equivalent to at least Bachelor Honours Class 2 Division I (eg for "merit honours" graduates) and providing a suitable background for the doctoral research the candidate is proposing to undertake. In exceptional cases applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degrees Committee.

International students need to refer to the University’s English language requirements www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguageqqs
**Master of Arts**

- **Full-time:** 2 years
- **Part-time:** 4 years
- **Study mode:** internal or external
- **Commence:** Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements

**CRICOS code:** 026642G

**Faculty:** Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: [www.usc.edu.au/AR801](http://www.usc.edu.au/AR801)

In the Master of Arts you develop research skills to facilitate problem-solving and decision-making. Depending on your topic of research, you will contribute to the body of knowledge in one or more of the broad areas of study in which the Faculty of Arts and Business specialises.

Completing the Master of Arts will foster your development of advanced research skills, and enhance your ability to review literature and case studies critically. It provides an environment for intellectual, professional and personal growth; and through this rigorous program, you will develop high-level written and oral communication skills.

**Research areas**

Refer pages 8-10 for examples of research supported by the Faculty of Arts and Business.

- Accident research
- Art and digital design
- Climate change
- Coastal management
- Communication and media studies
- Counselling
- Creative writing
- Drama
- Geography
- Historical studies
- Indigenous studies
- Interactive technologies and games
- Internet media studies
- Journalism
- Law
- Natural resource management
- Planning
- Politics and international relations
- Psychology
- Public communication and promotion
- Public relations and advocacy
- Social sciences
- Social work
- Sustainability

**Program structure**

As a candidate, you are required to conduct research that can be written-up as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a significant and original contribution to the body of knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation.

You must clearly articulate in your research outline, the topic, background, rationale, research question, aim and objectives, methodology, research methods and techniques, and timeframe. Your research outline is to include a literature review that relates to the research question and objectives. The results of your research activities should be presented succinctly and accurately and as necessary could be supported by more detailed annexures. Your syntheses analysis and discussion must clearly focus on the research question and the objectives. The results of your research activities should be presented succinctly and accurately and as necessary could be supported by more detailed annexures. Your syntheses analysis and discussion must clearly focus on the research question and the objectives of the work. Conclusions and recommendations must be drawn from your analysis and discussion and reflect the attainment of the aim and the way in which the research question is addressed.

**Admission requirements**

Candidates for the award of Master of Arts are normally required to hold a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division II from a recognised higher education institution. Applicants who have completed a bachelor degree and have achieved by subsequent work and study a standard equivalent to at least Honours Class 2 Division II may also be considered.

In exceptional cases, applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degrees Committee.

International students need to refer to the University's English language requirements [www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs](http://www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs).

**Master of Business by Research**

- **Full-time:** 2 years
- **Part-time:** 4 years
- **Study mode:** internal or external
- **Commence:** Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements

**CRICOS code:** 065370C

**Faculty:** Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: [www.usc.edu.au/BU801](http://www.usc.edu.au/BU801)

The Master of Business by Research is an advanced research award building on a Bachelor of Business (Honours) and training in research methodology. Undertaken under supervision, this program aims to develop the applied research skills of business graduates to enable them to either move into senior management or undertake doctoral studies.

Supervision is available to HDR students in each of the faculty's discipline areas: accounting, finance, information systems, international business, management, marketing and tourism. The program involves a substantial thesis based on rigorous empirical research, built with a sound conceptual framework and drawing on an established literature.

**Research areas**

Refer pages 8-10 for examples of research supported by the Faculty of Arts and Business.

- Accounting
- Entrepreneurship and innovation
- Informatics
- Interactive technologies and games
- International economics and finance
- Law
- Management and international business
- Marketing
- Natural resource management
- Property economics and development
- Sustainability
- Tourism, leisure and events

**Program structure**

As a candidate, you are required to conduct research that can be written-up as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a significant and original contribution to the body of knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation. You must clearly articulate in your research outline, the topic, background, rationale, research question, aim and objectives, methodology, research methods and techniques, and timeframe. Your research outline is to include a literature review that relates to the research question and objectives. The results of your research activities should be presented succinctly and accurately and as necessary could be supported by more detailed annexures. Your syntheses analysis and discussion must clearly focus on the research question and the objectives of the work. Conclusions and recommendations must be drawn from your analysis and discussion and reflect the attainment of the aim and the way in which the research question is addressed.

**Admission requirements**

Candidates for the award of Master of Business by Research are normally required to hold a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division II from a recognised higher education institution. Applicants who have completed a bachelor degree and have achieved by subsequent work and study a standard equivalent to at least Honours Class 2 Division II may also be considered. In exceptional cases, applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degrees Committee. International students need to refer to the University's English language requirements [www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs](http://www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs).

* External mode is not available to international students on a Student visa.
Master of Climate Change Adaptation by Research

Full-time: 1.5 years
Part-time: 3 years
Study mode: Internal or external
Commences: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 063014F

The Master of Climate Change Adaptation by Research equips you, as a practitioner, to meet the professional challenges associated with climate change adaptation.

Internationally, climate change is increasingly being acknowledged as a major threat to the physical and biological integrity of the environment, with long-term impacts on social and economic viability of communities. This threat is particularly important for people living in areas where changing climatic conditions threaten water and food security, public and environmental health, quality of life, living conditions and built infrastructure.

Global warming and climate change has emerged as an area to be addressed by land-use planners and environmental and natural resource managers in both the public and private sectors. Land-use planning outcomes and development pressures are major challenges being faced. In developed and developing countries alike, environmental and natural resource managers are faced with the myriad of issues that arise from having to deal with the biophysical, socioeconomic and cultural complexities of the environment, and the multiple land uses and the ecological services offered.

Key concerns include assured water supply, sustainable food production, loss of environmental amenity, public and environmental health, and the issues relating to sustainable levels of growth and development in the light of increasing population pressures. Compelling arguments point to the fact that, in the future, policy decisions on land-use planning outcomes must be informed by an understanding of the threats and risks arising from global warming, climatic variability and climate change. This gives rise to opportunities for research and research training in the emerging field of climate change adaptation.

Through your research, develop an appreciation of international trends in the assessment and management of climate change. Learn to proactively address the implications of climatic and environmental change and the associated hazards and risks that apply to environmental and natural resources management. Gain a better understanding of international and national obligations and commitments to environmental assessment and management, as they relate to global warming and climate change. Enhance your skills using integrated adaptive assessment and management tools and techniques. And discover how to more effectively assess and manage complex agricultural, industrial, infrastructure and urban development proposals, using statutory and best-practice processes and procedures, to meet the predicted effects of climate and related environmental change.

Professional recognition
Graduates are eligible to apply for professional accreditation as an environmental practitioner with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ).

Program structure
As a candidate, you are required to conduct research that can be written-up as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a significant and original contribution to the body of knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation. You must clearly articulate in your research outline, the topic, background, rationale, research question, aim and objectives, methodology, research methods and techniques, and timeframe. Your research outline is to include a literature review that relates to the research question and objectives. The results of your research activities should be presented succinctly and accurately and as necessary could be supported by more detailed annexures. Your syntheses analysis and discussion must clearly focus on the research question and the objectives of the work. Conclusions and recommendations must be drawn from your analysis and discussion and reflect the attainment of the aim and the way in which the research question is addressed.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Master of Climate Change Adaptation by Research are normally required to hold a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division II from a recognised higher education institution. Applicants who have completed a bachelor degree and have achieved by subsequent work and study a standard equivalent to at least Honours Class 2 Division II may also be considered. Entry by non-graduates who have relevant governmental or industry experience may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Dean, Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering. In exceptional cases, applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degrees Committee. International students need to refer to the University’s English language requirements www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs
Master of Creative Arts

The Master of Creative Arts is a research higher degree for graduates wanting to enhance and specialise their studies or to change the focus of their existing knowledge and skills.

This program offers opportunities for you to develop specific knowledge and skills about the emerging creative industries, and to foster your intellectual capacities through critical, analytical, lateral and creative thinking.

Research areas
The areas offered in this program include:

- Creative writing
- Art and digital design
- Interactive technologies and games

Refer pages 8-9 for examples of research in these areas.

Program structure
During candidature you undertake research for, and complete, the design, construction and presentation of original creative arts products, and a written exegesis of between 15,000 and 20,000 words. The exegesis must be a critical, scholarly and reflective articulation of the creative work produced for the degree, and must explain how that creative work relates to the development of knowledge and understanding in the creative tradition of which it is a part.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Master of Creative Arts are normally required to hold a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division II from a recognised higher education institution. Applicants who have completed a bachelor degree and have achieved by subsequent work and study a standard equivalent to at least Honours Class 2 Division II may also be considered. In exceptional cases, applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degree Committee.

International students need to refer to the University’s English language requirements www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs

Master of Education by Research

The Master of Education by Research is an advanced research program that requires you to conduct original research in an area that is both of interest to you, and of broader significance to the University and the community.

This program can help you upgrade original training and educational qualifications, develop areas of expertise to increase your professional credibility in educational and training settings, and equip you for senior positions or professional leadership. It involves the generation of deep knowledge in a specific professional area of study, a comprehensive review of the literature, advanced research techniques, and extensive analysis applied to a project in a workplace situation.

Research areas
Refer page 8 for examples of research supported within the Education discipline.

Program structure
The program has four distinct phases—proposal and affirmation of candidature, writing of the thesis, presentation of a scholarly paper to a significant national or international audience, and examination of the thesis. As a candidate, you complete one required course—EDU750 Research Methods in Education—which addresses the need to embed research enquiry in a particular research paradigm.

You investigate a number of research paradigms and a range of research methods that may offer understandings and tools to interrogate a research problem. You must demonstrate an understanding of the interplay among research paradigms, epistemology, and methodology and research methods before initiating your research project.

You are required to write a scholarly thesis of 70,000 words in a specific professional field, which demonstrates that you are making a significant contribution to knowledge and practice in your professional context. The thesis should also contribute to scholarship within your particular field of study.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Master of Education are normally required to hold either:

- a four-year undergraduate degree in an appropriate discipline with a GPA of 5 (on a 7 point scale) or equivalent, together with professional expertise in a specific field of education or training and a demonstrated potential to engage in research

or

- a Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate in Education with a GPA of 5 or better (on a 7 point scale) or equivalent together with professional expertise in a specific field of education or training and a demonstrated potential to engage in research

or

- a bachelor degree with Class 1 Honours or Class 2 Division I or Division II Honours

International students need to refer to the University’s English language requirements www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs
Master of Regional Planning by Research

The Master of Regional Planning by Research provides an opportunity to foster research in planning and offers a stepping-stone towards PhD research in the planning discipline.

Research areas
Possible research areas include topics of interest to existing staff, coastal management, water allocation and planning, urban planning and design issues, and dispute resolution in planning.

Program structure
During candidature you must complete one required course—CMN575 Research Design: Method and Literature Review—and compile a thesis of 30,000–35,000 words. You are required to conduct research that can be written-up as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a significant and original contribution to the body of knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Master of Regional Planning by Research are normally required to hold:

- a Planning Institute of Australia (or other professional planning accreditation body affiliated with the World Planning Schools Association) accredited four-year degree in planning

or

- an honours undergraduate degree in a planning-related area and relevant planning experience to the satisfaction of the Program Leader

International students need to refer to the University's English language requirements [www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs](http://www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs)

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Master of Science

The Master of Science is an advanced research program that requires you to conduct original research in an area that is both of interest to you, and of broader significance to the University and the community.

The program can help you upgrade original training, develop areas of expertise and increase your professional credibility in day-to-day dealings with clients, and equip you for senior positions. It involves a comprehensive review of the literature, advanced research techniques, and an extensive analysis applied to a project in a workplace situation.

Research areas
Refer pages 8-10 for examples of research supported by the Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering:

- Biomedical sciences
- Education
- Engineering
- Nursing and midwifery
- Nutrition and dietetics
- Occupational therapy
- Paramedic sciences
- Public health
- Sport and exercise sciences
- Science and environmental science

Program structure
As a candidate, you are required to conduct research that can be written-up as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a significant and original contribution to the body of knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Master of Science are normally required to hold a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division II from a recognised higher education institution. Applicants who have completed a bachelor degree and have achieved by subsequent work and study a standard equivalent to at least Honours Class 2 Division II may also be considered. Entry by non-graduates who have relevant governmental or industry experience may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering. In exceptional cases, applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degrees Committee.

International students need to refer to the University's English language requirements [www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs](http://www.usc.edu.au/englishlanguagereqs)
Master of Social Work by Research

Full-time: 2 years
Part-time: 4 years
Study mode: internal
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: Not applicable to international students on a Student visa
Faculty: Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: www.usc.edu.au/AR862

The Master of Social Work by Research is designed for students who want to develop their professional standing in the expanding and challenging field of professional social work. It will particularly benefit those who have an undergraduate degree in social work, have worked in the industry for some time, and are wishing to gain a higher degree through undertaking practice-based research.

You may enrol at the start of any semester. You attend lectures and tutorials with other research students. And the learning and assessment tasks are commensurate with your postgraduate standing. Research components of the program must be approved by the program coordinator, and based on the availability of supervisory staff with relevant expertise.

Program structure
During candidature, you must complete one course—CMN575 Research Design: Method and Literature Review—and compile a thesis of 30,000-35,000 words. You are required to conduct research that can be written-up as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a significant and original contribution to the body of knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation.

As a candidate, you must clearly articulate in your research outline, the topic, background, rationale, research question, aim and objectives, methodology, research methods and techniques, and timeframe. Your research outline is to include a literature review that relates to the research question and objectives. The results of your research activities should be presented succinctly and accurately and as necessary could be supported by more detailed annexures. Your syntheses analysis and discussion must clearly focus on the research question and the objectives of the work. Conclusions and recommendations must be drawn from your analysis and discussion and reflect the attainment of the aim and the way in which the research question is addressed.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Master of Social Work by Research must have completed a professional qualification in social work, duly accredited or recognised by the Australian Association of Social Workers. Entry by non-graduates who have relevant governmental or industry experience may be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Arts and Business. In exceptional cases, applications may be considered on the basis of other evidence of general and professional qualifications as approved by the Research Degrees Committee. International students need to refer to the University’s English language requirements www.usc.edu.au/englishlangereqs.

Master of Sports Nutrition by Research

Full-time: 1.5 years
Part-time: 3 years
Study mode: internal or external *
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 086893A

Only a full-time option is available to international students on a Student visa.

Faculty: Science, Health, Education and Engineering

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: www.usc.edu.au/SC844

The Master of Sports Nutrition by Research is a research-based master degree designed for students who wish to develop their professional standing in the field of sports nutrition. It will help you to increase your professional credibility in sports nutrition, and equip you for senior positions and leadership.

The program offers you the opportunity to deepen your knowledge and understanding of sports nutrition through research. It can be tailored to suit your individual interests, and you complete a research thesis relevant to your chosen topic. All research components of the program must be approved by the program coordinator and are based on the availability of supervisory staff with relevant expertise. The program can be upgraded to a Doctor of Philosophy with approval from the Dean and program coordinator.

Program structure
As a candidate, you are required to conduct research that can be written-up as a scholarly thesis. You must demonstrate research competency and the ability to make a significant and original contribution to the body of knowledge in your chosen area of specialisation.

You must clearly articulate in the research outline, the topic, background, rationale, research question, aim and objectives, methodology, research methods and techniques, and timeframe. Your research outline is to include a literature review that relates to the research question and objectives. The results of your research activities should be presented succinctly and accurately and as necessary could be supported by more detailed annexures. Your syntheses analysis and discussion must clearly focus on the research question and the objectives of the work. Conclusions and recommendations must be drawn from your analysis and discussion and reflect the attainment of the aim and the way in which the research question is addressed.

Admission requirements
Candidates for the award of Master of Sports Nutrition by Research are normally required to hold an undergraduate degree in Nutrition and/or Dietetics or Exercise and Sports Science and have completed a diploma in sports nutrition (eg The IOC Diploma in Sports Nutrition) or have suitable industry experience, and are wishing to gain a higher degree through undertaking practice-based research. Applicants must show that they have successfully completed, or are currently enrolled in, a course on research design and methodology (eg RES401 Advanced Research Methods or equivalent).

* External mode is not available to international students on a Student visa.
Steps to RESEARCH

1. Choose a program
   Use the research degree directory and the program descriptions to help you make your final selection (refer pages 11-17).

2. Check admission requirements
   Check your program for any specific entry requirements (refer pages 11-17) and refer to the Pathways to HDR programs (page 19).

3. Find a supervisor
   After choosing your program, you should contact a prospective supervisor in your area of interest and complete the application form in consultation with them. This will involve developing a Research Proposal around your proposed topic for your HDR. Use the “find an expert” tool on the USC website to search for academic staff who share your research interests.

4. Complete your application
   To access information and application forms, refer to www.usc.edu.au/HDRapply, or contact the Research Training Administrator for assistance researchtraining@usc.edu.au
   When you have completed your research proposal and attached certified copies of all required documentation (previous qualifications, birth certificate/citizenship, publications, curriculum vitae and other evidence of research outputs) submit your application to:
   Research Training Administrator
   B1.53
   Office of Research – ML26
   University of the Sunshine Coast
   Maroochydore DC QLD 4558
   Your application will then be reviewed by the relevant faculty who will forward a recommendation to the Research Degrees Committee for review. We aim to advise applicants of an outcome to their application within four to six weeks of receipt of a complete application.

About HDR programs and pathways

“Fellowship support to continue my research full-time is ideal. Having recently moved to the Sunshine Coast with my family, I was also excited about being able to do my research in such a coveted lifestyle location.”

Dr Kate Mounsey, ARC Research Fellow

By undertaking a higher degree by research, you can seek the answers to your own questions, make an original contribution to human knowledge, enhance your career prospects in industry or academia, and perform high-level research in a specific area of academic interest.

Why do a Higher Degree by Research?

A Higher Degree by Research (HDR) is an academic degree that will enhance your future career and life opportunities in industry or academia. A HDR tells employers that:

• You are capable of spending weeks or months diligently working to discover new truths, evaluating alternative approaches and recommending ways forward based on intellectually solid evidence.
• You can be trusted to work autonomously or in a small group, pursuing ideas and solutions that contradict ‘common sense’ or ‘received wisdom’ in your field.
• You will make an original contribution to human knowledge creating new products, new markets, new theories and new work for others to follow in your footsteps.

Industry and academia alike hire and relocate good people with HDRs from all around the world. On completion of your HDR you can choose to pursue further research and a career in academia, start your own company, undertake research in a government or business organisation, manage large businesses, or a combination of any of these rewarding options.
Research commencement

Higher Degrees by Research can commence at any time throughout the year. There are no semester-based deadlines.

Mode of study

Higher Degrees by Research can be undertaken both internally (within Australia) and externally (overseas). The requirement for external candidates to attend campus is negotiated in the application process, and is specified in the Research Supervision Agreement — an agreement outlining the expectations of both supervisors and students during the course of candidature.

Path 1
Class 1 (H1) or Class 2 Division I (H2a) Honours (research) degree

Path 2
Master by Research OR Master by Coursework with research component equivalent to an Honours thesis*

Path 3
Bachelors degree PLUS Work and study equivalent to an Honours thesis*

Path 4
Research or professional qualifications equivalent to an Honours thesis*

Masters Degrees

Path 1
Honours Class 2 Division II (H2b)

Path 2
Bachelor’s degree with GPA of 5.0 or greater in area relevant to proposed research

Path 3
Qualifications and/or experience equivalent to Path 1 or Path 2

Path 4
Research or professional qualifications equivalent to an Honours thesis*

PhD

Path 1
Class 1 (H1) or Class 2 Division I (H2a) Honours (research) degree

Path 2
Master by Research OR Master by Coursework with research component equivalent to an Honours thesis*

Path 3
Bachelors degree PLUS Work and study equivalent to an Honours thesis*

Path 4
Research or professional qualifications equivalent to an Honours thesis*

Time requirements

Candidates are required to begin their studies at a negotiated commencement date and continue them expeditiously. Typical timeframes for a HDR program are provided below, although these will vary depending on your admission pathway to the HDR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctoral Degrees</th>
<th>Research Master Degrees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected completion</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The expected and maximum duration of candidature is calculated from your initial date of enrolment to the date you submit your thesis or creative arts product for examination. Periods of approved leave (suspension) or extension of candidature can vary these timings.

Fees

Refer to study costs on page 24 for information on tuition fees, or visit the website. www.usc.edu.au/fees www.usc.edu.au/internationalpostgraduate

*Honours thesis is a 10-month individual research project resulting in 5000–15000 word thesis which would achieve a Class 2 Division 1 standard (Distinction).

If English is not your first language, you must meet the minimum English language requirements. English as a Second Language (ESL) candidates must demonstrate an IELTs score of 6.5 or equivalent.

www.usc.edu.au

"The skills I gained through the research process are transferable to a range of settings. It has also allowed me to become part of the broader midwifery research scene through conferences and networking."

Rachel Reed
Student, Doctor of Philosophy

Ben Manning
Student, Doctor of Philosophy; Bachelor of Business (International Business) 2010.
Stages of candidature

Probationary candidature
All HDR candidates start their research degrees as probationary candidates. During probationary candidature, in addition to any other prescribed coursework agreed on as a condition of enrolment, candidates must prepare a research proposal for Confirmation of Candidature. Your supervisor will guide you on how to prepare the research proposal.

Confirmation of candidature
Confirmation of Candidature is the means by which the faculty and the Office of Research assess your progress and determine whether the research project, as set out in your research proposal, is clearly defined, coherent and feasible. Candidates are required to give a seminar presentation on their research as part of the application for Confirmation of Candidature. The confirmation milestone is due after 9 months of full-time candidature for Research Master degree candidates, and 1 year for doctoral candidates.

Progress reports
Candidates submit a progress report each semester (twice per year). Progress reports are completed in consultation with your supervisor, and are an opportunity to request specific research training and to plan the next six months of your research project.

Examinations and award of your degree
The examination process for Higher Degrees by Research involves submitting a thesis/dissertation to be examined by a panel, Doctor of Creative Arts (DCA) examiners might also be invited to attend an exhibition of non-print works if appropriate, or be sent a video recording of such an event accompanying the dissertation.

Examiners are required to be external to USC and cannot include supervisors.

Examination can take several months. Examiners read, review and provide recommendations in an examiner’s report. Outcomes can include the requirement for amendments to the thesis/dissertation before it can be passed. Candidates are allowed up to six months to make required changes once the Research Degrees Committee has made such a recommendation.

Once the thesis/dissertation has been reviewed by the Research Degrees Committee and accepted to be passed, candidates are required to submit their final thesis to the USC Research Bank: research.usc.edu.au

The USC Research Bank provides an open access showcase of the University’s scholarly research output. Its aim is to showcase and make accessible the research of the University to local, national and international communities, promoting individual USC researchers and highlighting the overall research profile of the University.

Once the thesis/dissertation is deposited in the USC Research Bank, the Research Degrees Committee awards the degree, and recommends it to Academic Board for conferral.

Once Academic Board have conferred a doctoral degree, the recipient may then use the title ‘Doctor’.

Research supervision and support

Supervision
HDR students are required to have one Supervisor and at least one Co-Supervisor (who has been admitted to USC’s Register of Supervisors). Either the Supervisor or Co-Supervisor must be an experienced supervisor, having supervised another HDR candidate to successful completion within the last five years. Additional Associate supervisors may be external to USC.

The Research Supervision Agreement (RSA) facilitates good communication between supervisors and candidates; encourages supervisors and candidates to develop a common understanding of the framework within which USC’s Higher Degrees by Research operate; assists in the development and implementation of sound project management practices; focuses attention on candidate progress; and generally supports high-quality supervision. It is due within the first month of candidature.

Support
HDR candidates at USC are offered a wide range of supporting infrastructure. The Graduate Centre is an open-plan office space intended to offer a ‘HDR hub’ where students can connect. There are 22 PCs and workstations including two hot desks available for ad-hoc users. Students are also provided with a lockable filing cabinet, shelf space, copier/printing allocation, USC network and email accounts and specialist software. Each faculty provides funding to support the research projects of its HDR students.

The Office of Research coordinates the Research Essentials program. This is a series of workshops and seminars on a variety of topics that students have requested through their six-monthly progress reports. Topics include: SPSS and NVivo workshops, the HDR and Supervisor’s Induction, ‘Presentation Skills’, ‘Preparing for Confirmation of Candidature’, ‘Working with your Supervisor’, ‘Intellectual Property and YOUR thesis’, ‘Preparing for submission and examination’, and ‘Negotiating with Publishers’, to name a few.

Research Graduate Attributes
Graduates of USC higher degree programs should demonstrate evidence of the following attributes on graduation:

1. Conceptual knowledge appropriate to the level of study in a specific field or fields of research or discipline areas
2. Scholarly and critical engagement with the discourse/s of a specific field or fields of research or discipline areas
3. Refined capacities to manage knowledge production and dissemination in a specific field or fields of research or discipline areas
4. Advanced levels of communication in a range of genres using a range of media with a diverse array of audiences
5. Capacities to contribute to international, national and local contexts through scholarly, autonomous and independent thinking, problem-solving and decision-making based on excellence in a specific field of research or discipline areas
6. Respect for ethical and legal responsibilities and socially responsive and culturally inclusive decision-making as integral to research design, implementation and dissemination
7. Ability to work creatively through research to produce new ideas, approaches or actions
Student support

www.usc.edu.au/studentsupport

Accommodation
www.usc.edu.au/accommodation
Student accommodation complexes (privately owned) are located within walking distance to the University. The USC Student Guild manages an accommodation register and Student Life and Learning can assist with issues relating to accommodation and tenancy.

Career guidance and employment
www.usc.edu.au/careerconnection
Career Connection assists students and graduates with their career development. For career advice, help in setting career goals and selecting areas of study, assistance in putting together a resume, or finding a part-time job or work experience, visit Career Connection.

Childcare
www.usc.edu.au/childcare
A childcare centre is located on campus for USC and the community. An external provider operates the centre, and offers 66 places for children aged six weeks up to five years. A variety of other providers are located near to the University.

Disability and equity support
www.usc.edu.au/disabilitysupport
Comprehensive disability support services are available. Specialist staff and assistive learning technologies are on hand if, at any time, your studies are affected by disability, injury or illness.

Applying and enrolling
www.usc.edu.au/researchoffice
The Office of Research is your first contact point for administrative queries, and for help and advice relating to applications and enrolment. Staff can also advise on study costs and tuition fees, and financial assistance such as scholarships and bursaries.

Health and wellbeing
www.usc.edu.au/studenthealth
Health and wellbeing services help students in areas from finance to fitness. Free health activities run throughout the year and range from quit smoking and flu immunisation programs to meditation, dance and relaxation classes.

Student Life and Learning can assist with dispute mediation, nutrition and fitness, accommodation and tenancy, and the needs of the gay and lesbian community. Counselling services are free, confidential and available to all USC students. A Psychology Clinic also operates on campus.

Sport and fitness facilities and services are there to help you stay active. USC Sport runs fitness classes, team sports, the gym, swimming pool and other athletic facilities (page 22).

Did you know?
In 2013, USC supported 204 HDR students. Postgraduate students (coursework and HDR) account for around 10% of USC’s growing student population.

The average age of a USC student is 26. Over 30% of students come from outside the Sunshine Coast region.

Indigenous services
www.usc.edu.au/indigenous
The Buranga Centre offers programs and facilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Staff provide academic services such as the Indigenous Alternative Entry Program, Indigenous Orientation Week, the national Indigenous Cadetship program and the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme.

International student support
www.usc.edu.au/international

USC International
If you are an international student, USC International is where you access a range of services and advice related to student visas, compulsory over seas student health cover and other matters. English language support is also available.

IT services
www.usc.edu.au/itsupport
Computer services can be accessed on campus or remotely. When on campus, use the 24-hour student computer laboratories, the Information Commons in the Library, or your own laptop using wireless access or wired network connections. You can also access a variety of study resources via the Internet when off campus (refer page 23). Contact the Student IT Help Desk for assistance.

Library support
www.usc.edu.au/library
Library staff can help you through every stage of the research journey by providing advice, assistance and training relating to locating and using library resources and using referencing software such as Endnote. Libguides are accessible via the Library website to help researchers find and use library resources and research tools. For assistance contact or visit the Library Information Desk. There is also a designated Faculty Librarian for each School or discipline if you need more advanced or discipline specific assistance.

Security and safety
www.usc.edu.au/security
USC’s campus has security on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week. After-hours vehicle escorts are available and emergency call points are located around the campus.

How much time do I allocate for research?
Completing a Higher Degree by Research generally requires a much greater time commitment than a coursework degree. If you decide to study full-time, your HDR is considered equivalent to full-time employment. Therefore, you should allow at least 36 hours per week for 48 weeks of the year. As a part-time student, you should allow a minimum of 18 hours per week for the duration of your program. For you to be successful, both the University and your supervisors will expect this level of commitment.

Social activities on campus
www.usc.edu.au/studentactivities
www.usc.edu.au/events

Social support – Join a student club or association and even get support to start up your own. The USC Student Guild and Student Liaison Committee also provide select services for students. The Uni Club is a social hub on campus open to students during semester.

Art Gallery exhibitions – The USC Art Gallery hosts a range of exhibitions throughout the year, including showcases by computer-based design students and emerging Australian artists.

Entrepreneurial events – The Innovation Centre holds events during the year for students and business leaders. It’s a great way to connect, network and learn a thing or two about business enterprise.

University Research Week – The annual University Research Week provides an opportunity to collegially engage in and celebrate the research achievements of the University. www.usc.edu.au/researchweek

Join the research culture at USC – Keep your knowledge up-to-date and attend some of the many research seminars conducted by academics and HDR students throughout the year. The Office of Research coordinates regular HDR barbecues, morning and afternoon teas for research staff and students.

University Games – USC students can enter as teams into annual inter-university sporting competitions. The games are hosted by different universities each year and include lots of social events.

World Environment Day – The Sunshine Coast World Environment Day festival is held on campus each year in June. The festival is about entertaining and educating the community about sustainability and the environment through information, music, food and discussion.

www.usc.edu.au
You’ll find USC’s campus has everything you need to enjoy the complete student experience. The campus is well known for its green spaces, modern buildings and resident kangaroos, but there are also award-winning facilities that cater for teaching, studying, eating, sporting and socialising.

**Accommodation** – three privately owned student villages are a short walk from campus. www.usc.edu.au/accommodation

**Art Gallery** – free admission and a diverse annual exhibition program, including students’ work. www.usc.edu.au/gallery

**ATMs** – two located on campus. www.usc.edu.au/maps

**Athletics track** – Olympic-standard running track, including long jump, high jump, pole vault and hammer throw. www.usc.edu.au/sport

**Bookshop** – the Co-op Bookshop sells books, stationery, academic software and USC merchandise year-round. www.usc.edu.au/bookshop

**Cafés** – four eateries (Café J, Café C, the Brasserie, Sports Café) and vending machines provide a wide range of food and drinks. www.usc.edu.au/cafes

**Carparking** – available on campus (paid and free zones). Carpool to share the ride and the cost. www.usc.edu.au/parking

**Childcare** – an AEIOU Early Learning Centre on campus provides 66 places for children aged six weeks to five years. www.sdearlylearning.com.au

**Computer labs** – with labs open 24-hours, there are almost 700 computers across campus available for student use. www.usc.edu.au/online

**Cycle facilities** – easily available by bicycle, the campus has a bike hub with showers and lockers, bike stations for secure parking, and repair sites with bicycle pumps and other equipment.

**Indigenous information and support** – the Buranga Centre is a resource for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The centre has computers, study desks, kitchenette and a lounge area. www.usc.edu.au/indigenous

**Innovation Centre** – USC’s business incubator for start-up ventures. Attend networking events, gain work experience or receive support to start a business. www.innovationcentre.com.au

**International student support** – USC International provides information and support for international students. www.usc.edu.au/international

**Library** – open seven days a week during semester. In addition to its expanding collection, the award-winning Library offers 24/7 online access to full-text journals, ebooks and databases. HDR students are eligible for extended loan periods. A mail loans service is available for HDR students living in Australia but outside of the Sunshine Coast region. The Library provides a subsidised service to enable HDR students to request journal articles and books not held in the USC collection. All study needs are catered for in the Library with individual and group study areas, quiet study zones, wireless, computers, and copy and print facilities. The Library information desk provides library and IT assistance, as well as academic skills support. www.usc.edu.au/library

**Mail and print services** – for printing, photocopying, binding, and lost property needs. www.usc.edu.au/mailservices

**Psychology Clinic** – the clinic offers free appointments to students, and is a training facility for postgraduate students in clinical psychology. www.usc.edu.au/psychologyclinic

**Research facilities** – science labs, a sustainability research centre, sport and exercise science research facilities, and a research and learning centre at Dilli Village on Fraser Island. www.usc.edu.au/research

**Security** – 24-hours, every day, with after-hours vehicle escorts available. www.usc.edu.au/security

**Shopping centre** – located just over one kilometre away, Chancellor Park Marketplace has a supermarket, newsagency, bank, post office, medical centre, pharmacy, travel agent, bakery, retail and food outlets and a tavern. www.usc.edu.au/studentactivities

**Sport facilities** – the sports precinct has a three-court indoor sports stadium, gym, outdoor courts and playing fields, athletics track and swimming pool. Take fitness classes, play free lunch-time sport during semester or join a sporting group such as the Barbarians rugby union club. www.usc.edu.au/sport

**Student Central** – home to Student Administration. Drop in for application, enrolment, scholarships, fees, student ID card and graduation information. www.usc.edu.au/studentcentral

**Study facilities** – individual and group study spaces in the Library, open study areas around the campus, and a 24-hour student room. www.usc.edu.au/maps

**Swimming pool** – 10-lane, 50-metre heated swimming pool. Swim with a squad or on a casual basis. www.usc.edu.au/uscpool

**Teaching facilities** – lecture theatres, tutorial rooms, science labs, a nursing ward, an occupational therapy rehabilitation room, computer-based design labs, a television journalism studio, a dietetics kitchen, and dedicated teaching space for engineering and paramedic students. www.usc.edu.au/maps

**Wireless network** – around all campus buildings. Connect to the internet and the University’s online network for course materials, online library resources and video lectures. www.usc.edu.au/wifi
Technology and IT support

Make use of the computers on campus. As a USC postgraduate research student, you have a network account with access to software including research tools, email, internet, storage space and online study materials, and 24-hour access to computer laboratories on campus.

In addition to the dedicated research support facilities—such as the Graduate Centre (page 20)—there are almost 700 computers on campus for student use. Wireless zones connect you to the internet and the University’s online network, giving you easy access to your research materials and online library resources.

Stay connected to your research materials and student information with these online essentials:

- Manage all of your personal information and view your Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) invoice on USC Central* http://usccentral.usc.edu.au
- Blackboard/USC portal* provides access to University information, student notices, forms, Research Essentials program and other resources to assist you in your research http://online.usc.edu.au (Download the Blackboard app to your mobile device)
- Access online Library resources such as full-text journals and e-books www.usc.edu.au/library
- Program information is available online via the student handbook www.usc.edu.au/handbook
- The Student IT Help Desk offers full IT support in person, over the phone or via email, along with introductory tutorials and an online IT Services Guide www.usc.edu.au/itsupport

* Login is required to access the system. Students are provided with a login when offered a study place at USC.

Travel and transport

www.translink.com.au
www.usc.edu.au/transport

There are a number of ways to get to USC’s campus at Sippy Downs:

Catch public transport – USC is a major public transport hub for the Sunshine Coast, with regular bus services running to coastal towns, local beaches and shopping centres. An integrated bus and rail service links Landsborough Station directly to the University. Concession fares are available to full-time students.

Use the USC Express Shuttle – A shuttle bus travels to limited stops on teaching days. Use it to travel from North Lakes/Caboolture, Gympie/Cooroy or Noosa/Coolum. To access this service simply present your student ID card.

Drive your car (or carpool with others) – Visit www.jayride.com.au/usc – The campus has easy access to the Sunshine Motorway and the Bruce Highway. There are paid and free parking areas for students, staff and visitors. eTickets can be purchased daily or ePermits can be purchased for 6 or 12 months. Visit www.usc.edu.au/parking

Ride or walk – Bicycle paths and dedicated bicycle lanes connect the University to Sippy Downs, Buderim and Mooloolaba. The Bike Hub on campus has parking for bikes, gear lockers, showers and toilet facilities.

All your questions can be answered by the Office of Research. Drop in to see the Research Training team for support, advice and information about becoming a research student at USC (For detailed academic-related queries, contact your faculty).

www.usc.edu.au/research

Follow USC online at:

f unisunshinecoast  usceduau
**Study Costs**

**Tuition Fees**

How much your study costs and the loan assistance available will depend on the degree you choose and your citizenship status. Tuition fees are reviewed each year and students pay fees as per the fee schedule. For the current list of fees for postgraduate programs and courses refer to the USC website.

When examining the cost of going to university, it is important to remember that you may not need to pay your tuition fees up front. Accepted domestic applicants (including Australian citizens, permanent residents of Australia and New Zealand citizens) will be offered a Research Training Scheme (RTS) place. RTS students are not liable for tuition fees for the standard duration of their program—PhD up to four years full-time; Master up to two years full-time; part-time candidature doubles.

Domestic fee-paying students may be eligible to obtain a FEE-HELP loan to pay their tuition fees. This Federal Government loan scheme allows you to defer your fees until you graduate and earn a reasonable salary. Remember, domestic students would pay fees only if they have not completed their research program within the maximum period supported by the RTS.

**About the Research Training Scheme**

The Research Training Scheme is a Commonwealth Government-funded program where grants are paid to support the training of research students. The RTS provides block grants, on a calendar year basis, to eligible higher education providers (HEPs) to support research training for Doctorate and Master degree by research students.

These ‘RTS students’ are not liable for tuition fees for units undertaken as part of a HDR course of study.

---

**Domestic Students**

[wus.edu.au/fees](http://wus.edu.au/fees)

If awarded an RTS place, local students undertaking a PhD or Master by Research at USC are not liable for course tuition fees for the standard duration of their program.

Tuition fees are reviewed annually, with figures released in October. Please check the website for the latest information.

**Student Services and Amenities Fee**

All students pay a Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). SSAF charges are capped per calendar year and a flat fee applies each semester based on part-time or full-time enrolment. Australian citizens and permanent humanitarian visa holders are eligible to defer SSAF to a SA-HELP loan.

[wus.edu.au/safee](http://wus.edu.au/safee): for more information on the Student Services and Amenities Fee


**International Students**

[wus.edu.au/internationalpostgraduate](http://wus.edu.au/internationalpostgraduate)

The 2014 annual tuition fees for international students are:

### Faculty of Arts and Business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRICOS code</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Standard program length</th>
<th>Annual tuition fee*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>026642G</td>
<td>Master of Arts</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>065370C</td>
<td>Master of Business by Research</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>041913G</td>
<td>Master of Creative Arts</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>070697D</td>
<td>Master of Regional Planning by Research</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>041914G</td>
<td>Doctor of Creative Arts</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>076976D</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
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### Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRICOS code</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Standard program length</th>
<th>Annual tuition fee*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>063014F</td>
<td>Master of Climate Change Adaptation by Research</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>072639J</td>
<td>Master of Education by Research</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>026640J</td>
<td>Master of Science</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>066893A</td>
<td>Master of Sports Nutrition by Research</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>076976D</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Tuition fees are reviewed each calendar year. Any increase in tuition fees from one calendar year to the next will be no more than 7 percent. Tuition fees quoted do not include visa application fees. Administrative fees may also apply.

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**FEE-HELP Loans**

FEE-HELP is a Commonwealth loan scheme to help cover the tuition costs of postgraduate study. Eligible fee-paying domestic students (Australian citizens or permanent humanitarian visa holders) can apply for a FEE-HELP loan. Compulsory repayments only start when your income reaches a set threshold. For the 2013-14 income year, the compulsory repayment threshold was $51,309.

For more information about fee help visit [www.usc.edu.au/feehelp](http://www.usc.edu.au/feehelp)

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**Are Study Expenses Tax-deductible?**

Depending on your circumstances, if you work and study at the same time and your program relates directly to your employment, you may be eligible for a tax deduction for self-education expenses such as tuition fees, stationery and textbooks. For eligible fee-paying students, your current employment and the program you undertake must have sufficient connection for your self-education expenses to qualify as a work-related tax deduction. Taking out a FEE-HELP loan does not affect your ability to claim a tax deduction. For more information, visit the Australian Taxation Office. You may also wish to discuss your study plans with your employer. Many employers value professional development and some may be willing to contribute towards the cost of your education if it relates to your work. An employer reimbursing study expenses may need to investigate any tax implications.

[wus.edu.au/feehelp](http://wus.edu.au/feehelp)

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**International Students Fees**

[wus.edu.au/internationalpostgraduate](http://wus.edu.au/internationalpostgraduate)

The 2014 annual tuition fees for international students are:

### Faculty of Arts and Business

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<tr>
<td>026642G</td>
<td>Master of Arts</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>065370C</td>
<td>Master of Business by Research</td>
<td>2 years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>041913G</td>
<td>Master of Creative Arts</td>
<td>2 years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>070697D</td>
<td>Master of Regional Planning by Research</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>041914G</td>
<td>Doctor of Creative Arts</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>076976D</td>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
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USC students have access to a variety of scholarships and bursaries, all designed to help pay tuition fees, purchase equipment, pay for accommodation, and meet general living expenses.

There are several scholarships available for Higher Degree by Research candidates each year. Refer to the website for up-to-date information on current scholarships and application forms.

www.usc.edu.au/hdrs scholarships

A range of other financial support services at USC can help you meet the costs associated with tertiary study:

- **Student Life and Learning** delivers welfare services, including advice about financial and tenancy issues, Centrelink payments and other loan schemes.
- If you are looking for a part-time job to help pay the bills, USC’s careers and employment service can help. Career Connection provides assistance with job hunting, career guidance and work experience. Visit careerhub.usc.edu.au to search for jobs online or to contact Career Connection.
- **Student Life and Learning** offers interest-free loans of up to $500 to eligible students for purchasing study-related materials.
- **Emergency loans** of up to $50 can help you to meet unexpected and urgent financial obligations.

www.usc.edu.au/studentsupport

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**International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS)**

Higher Degree by Research applicants must satisfy the entry requirements for the proposed degree, including the English proficiency requirements, and must be a citizen of a country other than Australia and New Zealand. Applicants must also meet international student visa requirements as specified by the Department of Immigration, including the requirement to purchase and maintain a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy approved by the Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Priority will be given to applicants:
- who have completed an honours degree or equivalent with a first class result, or completed a research master degree
- who have a record of refereed research publication whose research aligns with one of the University’s research centres, groups, clusters or areas of concentration
- whose research proposal clearly demonstrates significance and innovation

Value: the annual course cost for the successful applicant’s program and the cost of a standard Overseas Student Health Cover policy.

USC also provides International Research Scholarships (USCIRS) equivalent in value and conditions to the IPRS each year to applicants deemed meritorious of an award.

Applications: open 1 August and close in mid-October each year.

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**Australian Postgraduate Award (APA)**

Applicants must have Australian citizenship or be permanent residents of Australia and plan to undertake their degree full-time.

Priority will be given to applicants:
- who have completed an honours degree or equivalent with a first class result, or completed a research master degree
- who have a record of refereed research publication whose research aligns with one of the University’s research centres or clusters
- whose research proposal clearly demonstrates significance and innovation

Value: $24,653 per annum tax free (2013 rate)

USC also provides several Research Scholarships (USCRS) equivalent in value and conditions to the APA each year to candidates deemed meritorious of an award.

Applications: open 1 August and close in mid-October each year.

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**Rotary Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies**

These scholarships were established in 2001 by the Rotary Clubs of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia. Three scholarships are awarded annually by the Deans to one postgraduate student in each University of the Sunshine Coast faculty. There are no application forms for these scholarships as awards are made on the Deans’ nominations.

Value: $4,000 each

**Fulbright Scholarships**

Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarships are available to Australian citizens to engage in 8–12 months of research relevant to an Australian PhD; or undertake an approved course of study in an American higher degree or its equivalent. These scholarships are aimed at current PhD students, honours students, or honours graduates who are considering postgraduate study in the US.

Applications: open 1 August and close in mid-October each year.

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"I was the recipient of a PhD scholarship from both the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Research Foundation and USC. Without this scholarship, it would not have been financially viable for me to complete my PhD."

*Brad Stefanovic, Doctor of Philosophy*
The annual University Research Week held in July provides an opportunity to collegially engage in and celebrate the research achievements of the University.

- Internationally recognised guest speakers
- Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition—presented by USC’s HDR candidates
- A Minute to Win It—60 second presentation by USC researchers on a current research project
- Research expo
- Faculty presentations
- Professional development workshops