ResearchUSC

Higher Degrees by Research

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University of the Sunshine Coast
The best of both worlds

INSIDE:

Why choose USC

USC POSTGRADUATE
RESEARCH
degree directory

DISCOVER OPPORTUNITIES
for research on the Sunshine Coast

OUR UNIVERSITY.

The University of the Sunshine Coast is the only full-service university campus on the Sunshine Coast. Our 8,000 students 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 2012.

A wide range of bachelor degrees and postgraduate studies are offered in the fields of Business (incl. tourism) and IT; Communication and Design; Education; Health (incl. nursing); Humanities and Social Sciences; and Science and Sustainability.

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 10,000 of our graduates are working on the coast, nationally and around the world.

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

The University's economic contribution to the Sunshine Coast region is estimated at A$500 million annually.

University of the Sunshine Coast
The best of both worlds

www.usc.edu.au

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 two research centres in sustainability and genecology (studying the genes of plants and animals). 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 knowledge will 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 study. 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 (DAFF).

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)

CONTENTS

Why choose to research at USC

10 REASONS...

1 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.

2 Choice of research opportunities

USC research specialises in genecology or sustainability, but there is a diverse array 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 or Social Sciences are your passion, you can select areas such as education research, environmental studies and planning, historical studies, politics and international relations, indigenous studies, psychology or social sciences.

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

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

If Education is your curiosity, consider research in curriculum development, teacher education or special education.

If you want to know more about Science try research in genetics, aquaculture or forest science. You can also choose to explore civil, water and sanitary or environmental engineering.

If your passion is Sustainability investigate issues such as coastal management, climate change, water governance, natural and cultural heritage, or community wellbeing.

3 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 2012 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.

4 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 groups that aim to address the region's needs.

5 Collaborate and thrive

With dedicated research centres and groups on campus you can join a research team in sustainability or genecology 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 A$5.45 million Collaborative Research Network (CRN). The three-year Research Futures Project Network 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 20 newly appointed USC Research Fellows developing new and 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 A$2.03 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital project, opening in 2016.

6 Quality and innovation

USC has a reputation for quality and a commitment to innovation—traits that are evident in each of USC's postgraduate programs. In this guide you will find information about the University, the higher degree by research (HDR) programs, and the application process—everything you need to make USC your choice.

7 Campus community

One of the first things you will notice on campus is the friendly and relaxed atmosphere. It isn't unusual to see kangaroos lazing about the grounds—they are just another part of the campus community. USC is also renowned for its environmentally sustainable design, distinctive architecture and modern facilities. Best of all, you are close to everything the beautiful Sunshine Coast has to offer! Discover what else is on campus on page 8.

8 The best of both worlds

The Sunshine Coast is now home to around 300,000 people. As the coast continues to grow, so do the opportunities—USC graduates are increasingly able to study and embark on a range of careers in one of the country's most popular lifestyle destinations.

9 Financial support

At USC, you will find there is a range of scholarships and financial support available to help make your university education more affordable. Refer to the scholarships information on page 11.

10 Easy access

On campus parking, subsidised public transport and free express shuttles (limited stops) make the campus more accessible. There are regular bus services to locations across the coast, a connecting bus to Queensland Rail at Landsborough, and plenty of bike paths to surrounding suburbs.
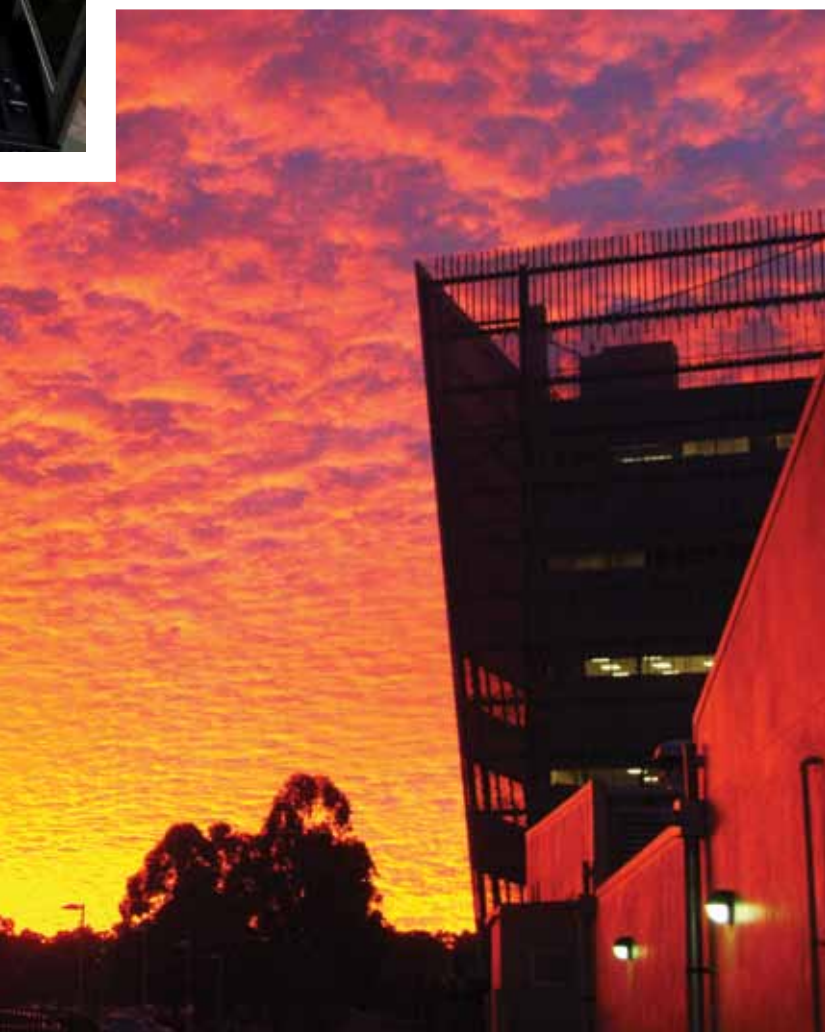
RESEARCH NEWS

MEDICAL RESEARCH CREATES A BUZZ

Flavia Massaro of Italy has dedicated the last ten years of her life to studying propolis from Australian stingless bees, and hopes to uncover its chemical properties during her research scholarship and PhD at USC.

While extensive research attests to the therapeutic properties of honeybee *(Apis mellifera)* propolis, the chemical and biological properties of the propolis from Australian stingless bees are largely unknown. Her research will provide a chemical reference point for analyses by other USC researchers into the biological potential of propolis, possibly for medicinal applications. She is particularly interested in varieties of stingless bee propolis and honey derived from *Corymbia torelliana* fruit resins and *Leptospermum polygalifolium* floral nectars, which have been linked to a potential Australian-made source of Manuka honey.

Flavia is currently using 33 hives on the Sunshine Coast, Gympie and in northern NSW for her research and is collaborating with several stingless bee and honey bee keepers. Flavia completed her undergraduate studies in Nutritional Science at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Urbino, Italy, and was inspired to research propolis applications during an exchange program to Malta in 2006. Further exchanges to universities in the United States and Australia finally led Flavia to choose USC for her Honours and now PhD studies.

Research into the medicinal properties of a sticky substance made by native Australian stingless bees is also being undertaken by USC Biomedical Science PhD student Karina Hamilton. Ms Hamilton, will receive A$75,830 in funding over three years from the Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council to undertake the study. In her first year at USC in 2008, Karina received a A$12,000 Renouf Family Scholarship—one of several new scholarships introduced that year to reward academic excellence. Her aim is to determine the anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant and wound healing properties of propolis, a resinous mixture made by Trigona carbonaria.

The research will build on findings from bees in different regions around the world and analyse the propolis from the Australian native bee to discover if it has similar healing abilities. She hopes the uniqueness of the Australian flora and fauna could potentially present an interesting find that hasn't been identified elsewhere. To explore changes which might suggest the propolis has anti-inflammatory or anti-oxidant properties, Ms Hamilton's research will apply the propolis to human cells, including white blood cells. Future studies could include the development of an animal model of wound healing to test whether propolis is able to treat the wounds on an animal.

ARC RECOGNISES GROUND-BREAKING USC RESEARCH

Two USC researchers have received recognition from the Australian Research Council's (ARC) for their insights into life extension in biology and new fuel cell materials. In addition, USC is a partner in three successful ARC Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities grants involving Dr Cummins (via the University of Queensland), Professor De Marco (via Curtin University) and Senior Lecturer in Environmental Microbiology Dr Ipek Kurtboke (via the University of Queensland).

Lecturer in Molecular and Cellular Biology Dr Scott Cummins gained a A$145,000 ARC Discovery Project grant for his project titled: "Sleeping snails: investigating hypometabolism to reveal critical factors that aid life extension".

His research involves defining the genes and peptides integral to snail hypometabolism—a process in which the snails' metabolism almost stops. The research could help control snail pests using chemical interventions, as well as provide new insights into life extension in biology in general.

USC's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research Professor Roland De Marco is a joint chief investigator in a project called "New mesoporous materials for use in high temperature proton exchange fuel cell membranes". This Curtin University-led study gained a three-year ARC Discovery Project grant of A$420,000, with A$40,000 each year going to support a PhD student at USC.

GLASSHOUSE FACILITY IS NEW HOME FOR TREE RESEARCH

Relocated from Brisbane to USC campus, a A$500,000, 200m^2 glasshouse facility is home to research into producing fast-growing native trees that can help mitigate climate change. The glasshouse is used by the three partners of the Smart Forests Alliance Queensland, USC, CSIRO and Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) for their individual research and joint projects.

The Smart Forests Alliance Queensland, led by USC, was launched in 2008 after receiving A$1.9 million from the Queensland Government's Smart State Innovation Funding program. This program aims to build world-class research facilities, attract top-quality scientists to Queensland and stimulate cutting-edge research projects.

The partners have approximately A$3 million in joint projects and the glasshouse enables further projects together in the future. The facility is used for a variety of research activities, particularly the propagation of endangered native plants, hardwood trees and rainforest trees.

DOES LITERATURE INFORM SOCIETY?

PhD student Lynette Maguire is compiling an historic overview of popular teenage books read between 1931 and 2008. Her research into the values and ideologies in young adult literature in Australia, involves analysing the reading habits of teenagers from each decade and the societal changes demonstrated through popular literature.

For example, a genre that is quite popular these days is called grunge fiction. Books may be set on a Melbourne suburban street and mention things like molestation—something that wouldn't have appeared in books in the 1930s. Although we know that literature has changed over the years, I am trying to determine if literature informs society or if society informs literature, Mrs Maguire said.

Participants, aged between 18 and 90, must be willing to take a trip down memory lane and recall the books they were reading when they were about 15 years old. The study will look at what these books teach us about individual behaviours, beliefs and moral decision-making, as well as society's acceptance of these. We may find there is a relationship between people's background and what they read when they were teenagers, she said.

Mrs Maguire believes her research findings will be of value to all disciplines, including education, history, sociology, English and literature studies. "Such research will give an historical overview of reading trends in Australia but also give an insight into future reading trends—all information which is important to educators, historians, literary theorists, publicists and sociologists."

USC RESEARCHER CONDUCTS FISH STUDY IN FRANCE

USC PhD graduate Kelli Anderson has begun a two-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in France, investigating the relationship between environmental pollution and marine reproduction in the European sea bass.

Environmental Science (Honours) graduate Ms Anderson is familiar with international destinations having previously travelled to Hong Kong and Washington for her own PhD research into fish reproductive endocrinology.

Ms Anderson is confident her own USC research, which involved analysing the reproductive physiology of species including salmon, tuna, mullet and oysters, would aid in this latest project.

The research will help determine what hormones and other proteins are affected by environmental oestrogens, and offer a better understanding of how pollution causes a decline in fish fertility.

VIETNAMESE PHD STUDENT FOSTERS USC LINKS

Vietnamese PhD tree scientist Cao Dinh Hung's research into tropical hardwood trees is set to boost both industry and the environment in Australia and Vietnam.

His recent breakthrough in the speed and ease of propagating native eucalypt and African mahogany trees is already of interest to plantation timber companies. His aim is to assist in reducing deforestation and to contribute to the socio-economic development of both Australia and Vietnam.

A seven-person film crew from Vietnam visited the USC campus and a local plantation technology company to interview Hung, his lecturers and fellow students about the potential real-life applications of his PhD work.

On returning to Vietnam, Hung remains an ambassador of USC and encourages more Vietnamese students to travel to Australia to study at USC.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP INTO GAMES AND MENTAL HEALTH

A three-year Computer Games, Young People and Mental Wellbeing Doctoral Scholarship, valued at A$22,860 per annum, will be offered to a high-performing PhD student commencing in a Doctoral program in 2012.

The successful candidate will be part of the Engage Research Lab at USC—an industry award-winning team that uses technology to engage community around social issues, and to provide community with a voice and opportunities for learning.

The aim of the research will be to determine if computer games are beneficial in improving the minds and well-being of children and adolescents.

USC's Interactive Digital Media Associate Professor Christian Jones said the research will look at whether young people who play computer games are better able to cope with life's challenges, and if some games are better than others for improved mental health.

The study will help uncover the psychological benefits of games which have goal achievements and rewards, and if those rewards are recognised as personal achievements by the player.

GAME DESIGNED TO GET KIDS OFF COMPUTERS

Doctor of Philosophy candidate, Uwe Terton is developing a computer game aimed at encouraging children to spend less time in front of computer screens and more time outside. His simulation game, 'Jumping the Fence', aims to help children aged 8-12 learn more about Australian fauna and flora by getting them out amongst it.

As part of his research, Mr Terton is investigating how effectively simulation games can boost the amount of time children physically interact with the natural environment. Simulations mirroring real-life examples, such as the city planning computer game Sim City, had proven very effective in promoting a greater understanding of complex systems, he said. "It is clear that similar strategies may be applied in developing real-time, educationally focused network games that address environmental issues."

A recent trial of the game at Sunshine Beach State School showed that 'Jumping the Fence' was having the desired effect, said Mr Terton. "It encouraged the children to leave the classroom-based computer and spend more time being engaged with the outdoors, becoming researchers themselves and taking on a role that encouraged the player to take care of a natural habitat." Students who took part in the trial expressed a positive feeling about being engaged with nature and said their knowledge about the Australian environment had improved.

The natural environment is part of Jumping the Fence's game mechanic and game world. The game uses real-life activities, animated tutorials and quizzes to enhance the educational experience. Through this, knowledge and experiences are shared in an interactive, multiplayer gaming environment in which the classroom teacher acts as the game master.

Mr Terton said many children today were regularly engaged in playing highly complex, interactive computer games. While these games are mostly played for recreational purposes, the frequency of game playing and the average duration of the games often bring about unintended consequences. Some of these include reduced physical activity leading to obesity, exposure to violence, postural deformities, aggression, seizures, and isolation. Mr Terton has specifically designed his simulation game to counter many of these issues.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPTIONS

This guide introduces you to USC's range of Higher Degrees by Research. Prospective coursework students should consult the companion publication Study USC—Postgraduate coursework degrees for the list of coursework programs available. Alternatively, the Undergraduate guide includes information on USC's Bachelor Honours programs, which are the traditional pathway to HDR programs.

What is a Higher Degree by Research?

A Higher Degree by Research (HDR) is a supervised research program that requires original research in an area that both interests you and is of broader significance to the University and the community.

Research master degrees require you to make a significant contribution of merit through advanced research, study and production of a work in a scholarly branch of learning, while doctoral degrees expect you to make a substantial original contribution to knowledge through your research.

Doctoral programs typically take three to four years to complete and Master programs around 18 months to two years studying full-time. Part-time study will double these timeframes.

HDRs may include advanced coursework. However, all programs must include a major research component that comprises at least two thirds of the total candidature requirements.

All HDRs are governed by the relevant governing policy— Doctoral Degrees Academic Policy or Research Master Degrees Academic Policy. To examine these policies, refer to the website.

www.usc.edu.au/policy

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. But like all good things in life, getting to the top of your game requires substantial effort, stamina and more than a little bit of inspiration.

An 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.

Who is eligible for admission to an HDR?

ADMISSION TO MASTER BY RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Candidates applying for admission for Master by Research candidature are normally required to hold a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division I or Division II from a recognised higher education institution. In some programs, 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. Refer to your program of interest for specific admission requirements.

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

ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Candidates applying for admission to Doctoral Research programs are normally required to hold a research master degree or a bachelor honours 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.

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

Conditions of candidature

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.

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 HDR.

	Doctoral Degrees		Master by Research Degrees	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Confirmation	1 year	2 years	9 months	1.5 years
Expected completion	3 years	6 years	1.5 years	3 years
Maximum completion	4 years	8 years	2 years	4 years

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 12 for information on tuition fees, or visit the website.
www.usc.edu.au/fees   www.usc.edu.au/internationalpostgraduate

USC offers a range of higher degrees by research and postgraduate coursework programs. 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.

Stages of candidature

PROBATIONARY CANDIDATURE

All HDR candidates start their research degrees as probationary candidates. The period of probationary candidature is usually 9 months full-time for research master candidates (18 months part-time) and 12 months full-time for doctoral level candidates (2 years part-time).

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 to date and determine whether the research project, as set out in your research proposal, is clearly defined, coherent and feasible. Candidates are also required to give a seminar presentation on their research as part of the application for Confirmation of Candidature.

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 with guidance from your supervisor.

EXAMINATIONS AND AWARD OF YOUR DEGREE

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

Supervisors can never be appointed as examiners for the work of a candidate they have supervised and examiners are required to be external to USC.

The period of examination can take several months, allowing time for examiners to thoroughly read, review and provide recommendations in an examiners 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: http://research.usc.edu.au

The USC Research Bank provides an open access showcase of the University of the Sunshine Coast's scholarly research output. Its aim is to showcase and make accessible the research output of the University to local, national and international communities. This will maximise impact for individual USC researchers and highlight the overall research profile of the University.

Once the thesis/dissertation is deposited on 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, ie have supervised a HDR candidate to the successful completion of their degree within the last five years. Additional Associate supervisors may be external to USC.

The Research Supervision Agreement (RSA) was introduced to facilitate good communication between supervisors and candidates; encourage supervisors and candidates to develop a common understanding of the framework within which USC's Higher Degrees by Research operate; assist in the development and implementation of sound project management practices; focus attention on candidate progress; and generally support high-quality supervision. The RSA is due to be submitted to the Office of Research 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 an 'HDR hub' where students can work together and increase connectivity among students. There are 22 PC's 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 training or information on 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.

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 area/s
2. Scholarly and critical engagement with the discourse/s of a specific field or fields of research or discipline area/s
3. Refined capacities to manage knowledge production and dissemination in a specific field or fields of research or discipline area/s
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 expertise in a specific field of research or discipline area/s
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

Contact us

For more information, contact the Research Training Administrator:

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Email: researchtraining@usc.edu.au

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University of the Sunshine Coast
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AUSTRALIA

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.

USC on Campus

How much time do I allocate for study?

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.

Grab a campus map
www.usc.edu.au/maps

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 but can be limited in peak times. 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 more than 600 computers across campus available for student use. www.usc.edu.au/online

Indigenous information and support — the Buranga Centre is a resource for Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea 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.innovation-centre.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 remote online access to full-text journals and databases. As a postgraduate student your borrowing privileges are significantly extended. Your designated faculty librarian will support your research one-on-one. Individual and group study areas, copy and print facilities, and casual seating areas cater for all study needs. The Library information desk provides library and IT assistance, as well as academic support. www.usc.edu.au/library

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

Off-campus study hubs — located 45 minutes north of the campus, Noosa-based students can study some courses and access computer facilities closer to home at the USC Noosa Centre. A new USC learning hub in Gympie, co-located with TAFE, is due to open in 2013. www.usc.edu.au/noosa

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.

Social facilities — the Uni Club is a student social space with a kitchen, showers, study spaces, notice boards, casual sports and weekly social events and activities. www.usc.edu.au/studentactivities

Sporting facilities — the sports precinct has a three-court indoor sports stadium, gym, outdoor courts and playing fields, athletics track, and 50-metre Olympic-standard 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 and Student Services. Drop in for fees, scholarships and graduation information as well as student support services. 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 Olympic-standard 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, the library catalogue and video lectures. www.usc.edu.au/wifi

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 being a research student at USC (For detailed academic-related queries, contact your faculty).

www.usc.edu.au/research

Online

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.

USC received a five-star rating for electronic support for students in the 2012 Good Universities Guide.

In addition to the dedicated research support facilities—such as the Graduate Centre (page 7)—there are more than 600 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 the library catalogue.

Stay connected to your research materials and student information, even when off campus:

Manage all of your personal information on USC Central:* http://usccentral.usc.edu.au

The 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

Access online Library resources such as full-text journals, e-books and essential readings: www.usc.edu.au/library

T**he Student IT Help Desk** offers full IT support in-person, over the phone or via email, while also offering 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   www.usc.edu.au/parking   www.usc.edu.au/maps

USC's campus at Sippy Downs is easily accessible, whatever your mode of transport. The campus is close to the Sunshine Motorway and the Bruce Highway. Parking on campus can be limited at peak times, so consider carpooling, using public transport, cycling or walking to reduce the cost. A bicycle track links the University with Mooloolaba (a 30-minute ride away), and surrounding areas.

Regular bus services operate between the University's bus interchange and coastal towns, local beaches and shopping centres. An integrated bus and rail service links Landsborough Station directly to the University.

As a full-time student, you can travel on concession fares—typically half the standard adult fare—on buses and trains across the Sunshine Coast. When looking for somewhere to live, check that you will be close to public transport. A free express USC shuttle travels to limited stops on the Coast. To access this service simply present your student ID card.

STUDENT SUPPORT

www.usc.edu.au/studentsupport

USC's smaller campus community means support staff can provide more personalised assistance. Explore the support services available to you.

Career guidance and employment
www.usc.edu.au/careerconnection

For career advice, assistance in putting together a résumé, finding a part-time job or work experience, visit Career Connection. Whether you are currently studying, about to graduate or just thinking about studying, Career Connection can assist in your career development.

Disability and equity support
www.usc.edu.au/disabilitysupport

A disability or learning difficulty doesn't have to stand between you and a degree. USC is committed to providing equity of access, support and participation to all students. Specialist staff and assistive learning technologies are available if, at any time, your studies are affected by disability, injury or illness.

Enrolment, application and financial assistance
www.usc.edu.au/researchoffice

The Office of Research is your primary 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. Student Services can assist with counselling, emergency loans, dispute mediation, nutrition and fitness, accommodation and tenancy, and the needs of the gay and lesbian community.

Indigenous support
www.usc.edu.au/indigenous

The Buranga Centre offers support programs and facilities tailored specifically to Indigenous students. Indigenous staff provide culturally appropriate resources and academic support such as the Indigenous Alternative Entry Program, Indigenous Orientation Week, National Indigenous Cadetship and the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme.

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

If you are an international student, USC International is your point of contact to access a range of services and advice on all aspects of studying in Australia. English language support is 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 (see page 9). Contact the Student IT Help Desk for assistance.

OTHER SERVICES:

Accommodation: Student Services manages an accommodation register, which lists rentals available to students. There are also several privately owned student accommodation options next to the University campus. www.usc.edu.au/accommodation

Childcare: Childcare is available on campus. Visit www.usc.edu.au/childcare for more information.

Library support: For an introduction to Library services and resources, tutorials are usually offered throughout semester.

Sport and fitness: Enhance your university experience. See USC Sport to join a fitness class, access sporting facilities, get involved in university sport, or participate in social sport (see page 9).

Print services: Copying and printing facilities are located across the campus.

Student associations: The USC Student Guild and Student Liaison Committee provide select services to and for students.

Security and safety: USC's campus has security on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

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

Careers Fair: The annual USC Careers Fair is a vital opportunity to meet and interact with prospective employers. You might even get the chance to land your dream job!

Entrepreneurial events: The Innovation Centre hosts a range of 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.

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, including the annual Research Week. www.usc.edu.au/researchweek

The Office of Research coordinates regular HDR barbeques, 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, which include lots of social events, are hosted by different universities each year.

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

Check the website for many other events held on campus during the year. www.usc.edu.au/events

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. As a guide to costs, refer to page 12. 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. Domestic students (including New Zealand citizens) may be offered a Research Training Scheme 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.

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 exempt from payment of student contribution amounts and tuition fees for units undertaken as part of an HDR course of study.

Eligibility

An RTS student must be an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or New Zealand citizen; and enrolled in an accredited HDR course leading to a Doctorate degree by research (including a professional Doctorate) or a Master degree by research.

RTS students may be enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis.

Students undertaking Higher Doctorate, Bachelor Honours or Postgraduate Coursework degrees are not eligible to be RTS students.

Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) (APA(I)) holders

APA and APA(I) recipients will be given RTS entitlements in priority to other students.

Maximum entitlements

RTS students are entitled to a maximum of four years full-time equivalent study if undertaking an eligible Doctorate degree by research and a maximum of two years full-time equivalent study if undertaking a Master degree by research. The maximum period of entitlement is calculated from the course commencement date.

Progression to a Doctorate Degree by Research after completing a Master Degree by Research

Where an RTS student completes a Master degree by research and then progresses to a Doctorate degree by research, the student is entitled to four years full-time equivalent study for the Doctorate degree. This entitlement applies whether or not there is an interval between the Masters and Doctorate degrees. If a student completes a Master degree by research in fewer than two years, the maximum entitlement for a subsequent Doctorate degree by research by that student remains a maximum of four years full-time equivalent study.

Upgrade from a Master Degree by Research to a Doctorate Degree by Research

Where an RTS student commences studies in a Master degree by research and then upgrades to a Doctorate degree by research, the student is entitled to a maximum of four years full-time equivalent study, including the time enrolled in the Master degree by research. An upgrade occurs where a student who is enrolled in a Master degree by research course is undertaking research at such a standard that either the HEP recommends that the student upgrade their degree to a Doctorate degree or the student seeks to upgrade to a Doctorate degree and this is supported by the HEP; and there is no break between the candidature for the Master degree and the Doctorate degree unless the interval is covered by a period of suspension; and the research undertaken by the student while enrolled for the Master degree by research is continued for the Doctorate degree or modified to meet the requirements for the Doctorate degree.

More information

For more information, visit the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research website www.innovation.gov.au/research/researchblockgrants/pages/researchtrainingscheme.aspx

RTS information sourced from the Commonwealth of Australia - Higher Education Support Act 2003 - Other Grants Guidelines (Research) 2010, Attachment: Student Eligibility Criteria and other matters concerning the RTS Grant.

Domestic students

www.usc.edu.au/fees

In 2013 the fees per full-time semester for domestic (local) students are: *

Program	Cost
Master by Research	A$11,000
Doctoral	A$11,000

* 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.

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

FEE-HELP loans

The Federal Government's Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) allows eligible students to defer their student contribution and repay it later through the taxation system. If, like most students, you choose to defer your contribution there is HELP available.

To help cover the costs of postgraduate study, eligible fee-paying students (either Australian citizens or permanent humanitarian visa holders) can apply for a FEE-HELP loan. Much like a HECS-HELP loan, the FEE-HELP loan can cover all or part of your tuition costs, with repayments only starting when your income reaches a set threshold. For the 2012-13 income year, the compulsory repayment threshold is A$49,095.

FEE-HELP loans do not attract any interest, but are indexed against the CPI. Note: FEE-HELP loans have a capped borrowing limit—from 2012, students can borrow a maximum of A$89,706 over their lifetime.

You have three options for meeting your tuition costs under FEE-HELP:

- **One—**pay up-front, in full; or
  If you decide not to pay the full tuition fee upfront and you are eligible for FEE-HELP, you may:
- **Two—**pay some up-front and request a FEE-HELP loan to pay the remainder of the tuition fee;
  or
- **Three—**request a FEE-HELP loan for the full amount; and defer any payments until your income exceeds the minimum repayment threshold.

You can make a voluntary repayment to the Tax Office at any time and for any amount. Voluntary repayments of A$500 or more receive a five percent deduction. Voluntary payments are in addition to compulsory repayments. They are not refundable.

For more information about FEE-HELP or tuition fees, contact:

- HECS-HELP/FEE-HELP Enquiry Line: 1800 020 108
- DEEWR website: studyassist.gov.au
- USC Student Fees Officer:
  Tel +61 7 5430 2890 Email fees@usc.edu.au

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.

www.ato.gov.au/studyandclaim

STUDY COSTS

www.usc.edu.au/fees

International students

www.usc.edu.au/internationalpostgraduate

International students are required to pay an annual tuition fee.

In 2013, the annual tuition fees for international students are:#

Faculty of Arts and Business

CRICOS code	Program	Program length	Annual tuition fee#
026642G	Master of Arts	1.5–2 years	A$23,000
065370C	Master of Business by Research	1.5–2 years	A$23,000
041913G	Master of Creative Arts	1.5–2 years	A$23,000
070697D	Master of Regional Planning by Research	1.5–2 years	A$21,000
041914G	Doctor of Creative Arts	3–4 years	A$23,000
076976D	Doctor of Philosophy	3–4 years	A$23,000

Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering

CRICOS code	Program	Program length	Annual tuition fee#
063014F	Master of Climate Change Adaptation by Research	1.5–2 years	A$22,000
072639J	Master of Education by Research	1.5–2 years	A$20,000
026640J	Master of Science	1.5–2 years	A$23,000
066893A	Master of Sports Nutrition by Research	1.5–2 years	A$23,000
076976D	Doctor of Philosophy	3–4 years	A$23,000

Estimated tuition fees are based on 2013 rates and successful completion of the minimum number of courses required within the minimum program length shown. Tuition fees are reviewed each calendar year. Tuition fees quoted do not include visa application fees. Administrative fees may also apply.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT

www.usc.edu.au/HDRscholarships

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.

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, groups, clusters or areas of concentration
- whose research proposal clearly demonstrates significance and innovation

Value: A$23,728 per annum tax free (2012 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.

Rotary Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies

These scholarships were established in 2001 by the Rotary Clubs of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia. 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: A$3,000 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.

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.

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

- Student Services 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 Services offers interest-free loans of up to A$500 to eligible students for purchasing study-related materials.
- Emergency loans of up to A$50 can help you to meet unexpected and urgent financial obligations.

www.usc.edu.au/studentservices

STEPS TO STUDY

1 ☐ Choose a program

Use the research degree directory and the following program descriptions to help you make your final selection.

2 ☐ Check admission requirements

Higher Degrees by Research www.usc.edu.au/hdr

Check your program for any specific entry requirements. The standard requirements are:

Candidates applying for admission for Master by Research candidature are normally required to hold a bachelor degree with at least Honours Class 2 Division I or Division II from a recognised higher education institution. In some Master by Research programs, a bachelor degree from USC in an area relevant to the proposed research program with GPA of 5.0 or higher might be accepted. Candidates applying for admission to Doctoral Research programs are normally required to hold a research master degree or a bachelor honours 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 or 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. For more information, contact the Office of Research.

English language requirement for international applicants www.usc.edu.au/international

Applicants require high-level academic English skills before commencing a postgraduate program at USC. All courses are taught in English, and all assessment items—including research theses and dissertations—must be written in English. If English is not your first language, you need to provide evidence that you meet USC's minimum English requirements. English language courses may assist in meeting this requirement. Contact USC International for more information.

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. Visit the relevant faculty page on the USC website to find contact details for an appropriate supervisor, or contact the Faculty Research/HDR Coordinator for assistance.

Faculty of Arts and Business
Associate Professor Christian Jones
Associate Dean (Research)
✉ FABresearch@usc.edu.au
www.usc.edu.au/FABstaff

Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering
Dr Fraser Russell
Faculty HDR Coordinator
✉ frussell@usc.edu.au
www.usc.edu.au/FSHEEstaff

Research Training Administrator
Tel: +61 7 5456 5421
✉ researchtraining@usc.edu.au

4 ☐ Complete your application

www.usc.edu.au/HDRapply

To access information and application forms, refer to the website, or contact the Research Training Administrator for assistance:

5 ☐ Submit your research proposal

When you have completed your Research Proposal, obtained your supervisors signature and attached certified copies of all required documentation (previous qualifications, birth certificate/citizenship, curriculum vitae etc) please submit your application to:

Domestic applicants:
Research Training Administrator
B-1.53
Office of Research – ML26
University of the Sunshine Coast
Maroochydore DC QLD 4558

International applicants:
Admissions
USC International – ML17
University of the Sunshine Coast
Maroochydore DC Qld 4558
Australia

6 ☐ Wait for approval

Your application will then be reviewed by the relevant faculty who will forward a recommendation about your application to the Research Degrees Committee for review. We aim to advise applicants of an outcome to their application within four weeks.

RESEARCH FOCUS

GeneCology Research Group

The GeneCology Research Group is housed in the Faculty of Science, Health, Education and Engineering and forms an umbrella for research in the areas of Genetics, Ecology, Genomics and Physiology within terrestrial and marine environments, and the interaction between these.

The group studies individual species' biology and ecology, ecological communities and habitats, as well production systems and their environment.

Research covers a range of topics including:

- sustainable production systems in aquaculture, forestry and horticulture
- reproductive biology and physiology of plants and animals
- genetics and genomics of commercially important traits in aquaculture, forestry and horticulture
- evolution and function of mitochondrial genomes
- environmental and medical microbiology, enzymology, virology, parasitology
- molecular biology, molecular biotechnology and molecular engineering
- organic and carbohydrate chemistry, biochemistry, biomineralisation
- plant biotechnology, micropropagation, forest entomology
- conservation genetics of threatened species and restoration genetics
- integration of population ecology and genetics for threatened species recovery and restoration, translocation habitat and population modelling
- effects of climate change on species distributions, reproduction, population growth and genetics
- biodiversity of ecological communities including the integration of genetics and community ecology, restoration and conservation management and planning
- ecotoxicology and bioinformatics
- microbial communities, their roles and mechanism of action in biomedical and agricultural contexts
- engineering of molecular devices for therapeutic and diagnostic use
- biodiscovery, the search for novel compounds

For more information:
www.usc.edu.au/genecology

USC concentrates its research effort in a limited number of areas of research focus. At present these areas are applied genetics in primary production and regional sustainability. Currently USC has a designated research centre or research group in each of these areas. The University is developing its significant research activities into research clusters and centres 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.

Sustainability Research Centre

The Sustainability Research Centre (SRC) is housed in the Faculty of Arts and Business, and has a focus on sustainable communities and sustainable environments, and the institutions that relate to them. It is committed to research that supports the transformation of society towards sustainability.

While the SRC encompasses a range of disciplines and undertakes transdisciplinary research, its core focus is aligned with social, behavioural and economic sciences.

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

Through this focus, the SRC make contributions to knowledge in the areas of:

- sustainability science
- resilience
- adaptive capacity
- adaptive management
- social learning
- social and human capital
- regional development theory

These contributions have application when dealing with a range of sustainability issues such as coastal management, climate change, and water governance (recognised as significant at local through to international scales). In this way, SRC researchers can address real on-the-ground concerns of society and the environment.

For more information:
www.usc.edu.au/sustainability

The Faculty of
Arts and Business
supports research in the following areas:

Accounting

Research in accounting can cover many areas including: accounting for investments; accounting for joint ventures; commercial law; conflict management; corporate equity, debt and profitability; corporate governance; economics of technological change; economics, finance and accounting issues; ethics and cultures in auditing; evaluation of student teaching methods; financial accounting; financial sector instruments; information systems; international accounting; labour economics and industrial relations; legal frameworks for management practice; legal issues and accounting; management education; mediation/alternative dispute resolution; small business and regional issues; strategy; student attrition; superannuation reform; taxation; the impact of technology on retail banking; the sport-media nexus and the internationalisation of sport; university teaching and learning; or viability of segmentation in financial services.

Art and digital design

In the field of art and digital design, research includes studies of Aboriginal, environmental and contemporary art, curatorship, visual culture and visual literacy as well as a range of contemporary design fields such as graphic design, 3D design, e-media design, digital aesthetics, fabrication, imaging and video technologies, game development, mobile gaming, interactive application design, information design and visualisation, virtual navigation and virtual tourism.

Creative writing

Research of, and within, creative writing covers a broad range of genres—such as writing fiction for adults, young adults and children—and forms—such as short story collections, novels, illustrated novels, graphic novels and illustrated books. Research in the field of creative writing 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

Education researchers are particularly concerned with questions of social justice, cultural diversity and contemporary social change. Research expertise includes antiracist and multicultural education, LOTE policy, critical pedagogy, globalisation and education, international education, peace and refugee education, and sustainability and education.

Entrepreneurship

If entrepreneurship is more your focus, consider research areas such as: entrepreneurial attitudes; abilities and intentions; risk recognition, risk reduction and investor readiness; work motivation theory; or workaholism and work enthusiasm.

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, social and cultural history, and oral history.

Informatics

Informatics plays a vital role in most businesses and you may wish to explore the following business and health related non–technical topics: computer 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; 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; Information Systems (IS) management such as information system planning, strategy formulation and effectiveness measures.

International business

Over recent decades international markets and business have evolved reflecting the global interdependence of world economies presenting a wide range of research opportunities with focus in areas such as: global trade, economics and finance; the history and evolution of economic thought; foreign market participation, with particular focus on emerging BRIC markets; global e-business; cross-cultural and global cultural dynamics; emerging global strategies; global logistics as a competitive strategy; the emerging born-global business models; leadership in a global context; or, international business education.

Internet media studies

Internet media studies is a field informed by multi-paradigmatic theories drawing from journalism and media studies, sociology, history, psychology, political science and legal studies. It is of increasing interest in the global era of the internet when the lines between traditional and new media are being blurred through prosumer interactivity, and the identities of self, nations and communities played out and (re)negotiated in the real–virtual spheres. 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 and the relationship between public relations and journalism.

Management

In the area of management, you may choose to research issues like: Australian higher education history; corporate entrepreneurship; cultural change; employment equity; environmental management systems; higher education management; innovation and entrepreneurship; 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; social and environmental accounting; strategic management; strategy; team dynamics; total quality management; or work stress and emotions.

Marketing

While research in marketing can cover a vast range of possible areas, currently within the marketing discipline expertise exists in the areas of food consumption behaviour, marketing education, services marketing and social marketing. Our marketing academics are actively researching these topics in a variety of contexts (local, national and international), using a wide variety of methodological approaches.

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.

Psychology

Research in psychology addresses the mental process of human behaviour. Expertise in psychology includes: gaming psychology; adult lifespan, especially emerging and middle adulthood; alcohol and other drug use; body image, diet and exercise; cognition, including attention and memory; cognitive development; cross-cultural tolerance; cultural and cognitive perspectives on hope; health psychology across the lifespan; mental imagery; physical activity for health; positive psychology factors as predictors of health, work-life balance; professional ethics; refugee mental health and wellbeing; relationships and communication between mothers and daughters; 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. In this regard, the field deconstructs public and commercial campaigns and engages with public/audience responses and participation in an increasingly mediatised and viral environment.

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. The role of global news media in international conflicts and the use of social and alternative media for citizen journalism and grassroots advocacy are explored. Students examine the impact of new and emerging media on the identities of public individuals and organisations and explore how soft power and diplomacy including a range of other strategies and tactics are deployed in issues management and damage control.

Social sciences

Social science research encompasses studies in sociology, social work, counselling, geography, regional and urban planning, community work and welfare, and development studies. It is fundamentally concerned with human social relations. Research in this area is orientated towards issues of social inclusion, inequality and justice. Research expertise includes: 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 citizens, groups and communities; to formulate creative responses to social disadvantage and inequality; promote human rights; and promote ethical standards.

Sustainability

The core focus of sustainability aligns with the social, behavioural and economic sciences. In addressing concerns of society and the environment, this important trans-disciplinary 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 SRC on page 15.

Tourism

In such a great location as the Sunshine Coast, you might consider research in: coastal tourism; community tourism development; ecotourism management; education needs in tourism; Olympics, sport and tourism; physical self-concept; small business tourism; socio-cultural impacts of tourism; special interest tourism and marketing; sport psychology; sport, festival and event marketing and management; sustainable tourism; technology and tourism; tourism decision-making; tourism policy and planning; or water-based tourism and recreation.

HONOUR FOR USC'S CREATIVE WRITING GURU

Award-winning children's author and USC academic Dr Gary Crew has signed up for a campaign to help make Australia a nation of readers. The Associate Professor of Creative Writing accepted an invitation from the State Library of Queensland to be one of six Queensland Ambassadors during the National Year of Reading in 2012.

Dr Crew said the National Year of Reading aimed to make all Australians understand the benefits of reading as a life skill and a catalyst for wellbeing.

Dr Crew's responsibilities as a Queensland Ambassador will include doing media interviews and speaking with schools, clubs and other groups about reading. One week of the year will be designated as Dr Crew's week, during which his achievements as an author and as a Creative Writing academic will be highlighted. "This is recognition for a long, long life of working in the field and that makes me feel pretty good," he said. "I think it's really nice for me to be out there, in my 60s, with people who are still creating."

Dr Crew said a key message of the National Year of Reading would be that all forms of reading – including comics, magazines, romance books, e-books, poetry, newspapers and song lyrics – were important. "The year will be all about helping people discover and rediscover the magic of books," he said. "And, most of all, it's about Australia becoming a nation of readers."

The Faculty of
Science, Health, Education and Engineering
supports research in the following areas:

Biomedical sciences

The contemporary field of biomedical science uses the study 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, biomineralisation, neurobiology/muscle physiology, cardiovascular function, wound healing, and biomolecular studies of infectious diseases.

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, help to 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 evolve with time with our research expertise 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.

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 resiliance 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 plans, 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.

Public health

Public health focuses 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.

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, enhancing athletic performance, psychological health in populations, effects of physical environment and nutrition, smoking and drinking management and health effects, strength and power training, anaerobic and aerobic conditioning, movement quality and function, lifelong health and wellbeing, exercise prescription and industry practices, performance analysis, optimisation and preventing injury.

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.

For more information on the research interests of individual academic staff, refer to the website. www.usc.edu.au/FSHEEstaff

RESEARCH DEGREE DIRECTORY

BUSINESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Example research areas include accounting, entrepreneurship, informatics, international business, management, marketing, public relations and tourism

Program	Page
Doctor of Philosophy	19
✖ Master of Business by Research	20

COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

Example research areas include art and digital design, creative writing, historical studies, internet media-studies, journalism, public communication and promotion

Program	Page
✖ Doctor of Philosophy	19
✖ Master of Arts	20
✖ Master of Creative Arts	22
✖ Doctor of Creative Arts	19

EDUCATION

Example research areas include curriculum studies, teacher education and education studies

Program	Page
✖ Doctor of Philosophy	19
✖ Master of Education by Research	22

HEALTH

Example research areas include biomedical science, nursing and midwifery, nutrition and dietetics, occupational therapy, paramedic sciences, public health, and sport and rehabilitation sciences

Program	Page
✖ Doctor of Philosophy	19
✖ Master of Science	23
✖ Master of Sports Nutrition by Research	24

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Example research areas include education research, human geography, politics and international relations, psychology, public relations and advocacy, and sociology

Program	Page
✖ Doctor of Philosophy	19
✖ Master of Arts	20
✖ Master of Regional Planning by Research	23
Master of Social Work by Research	24

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Example research areas include civil engineering, earth sciences, coastal management, environmental sustainability, water governance, and sport and exercise sciences

Program	Page
✖ Doctor of Philosophy	19
✖ Master of Arts	20
✖ Master of Climate Change Adaptation by Research	21
✖ Master of Science	23

✖ 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

COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

Full–time:	3 years expected, 4 years maximum
Part–time:	6 years expected, 8 years maximum
Study mode:	internal or external
Commence:	Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code:	041914G
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

Refer to page 15 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.

DOCTOR OF
Philosophy

BUSINESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN
EDUCATION
HEALTH
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Full–time: 3 years
Part–time: 6 years
Study mode: internal or external
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
Doctor of Philosophy CRICOS code: 076976D

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: **www.usc.edu.au/UN901**

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 to pages 15–17 for examples of supported research 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 proficiency requirements.

MASTER OF
Arts

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: 026642G
Faculty: Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements:
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 to pages 15–16 for examples of research supported by the Faculty of Arts and Business.

- Art and digital design
- Creative writing
- Education research
- Historical studies
- Internet media studies
- Journalism
- Politics and international relations
- Psychology
- Public communication and promotion
- Public relations and advocacy
- Social sciences
- 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 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 proficiency requirements.

MASTER OF
Business
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: 065370C
Faculty: Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements:
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, marketing, international business, marketing, management 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 to pages 15–16 for examples of research supported by the Faculty of Arts and Business.

- Accounting
- Entrepreneurship
- Informatics
- Management
- Marketing
- International business
- Tourism

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.

* External mode is not available to international students on a Student Visa.

MASTER OF
Climate Change
Adaptation by Research

SCIENCE AND
SUSTAINABILITY

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: 063014F
Faculty: Science, Health, Education and Engineering

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements:
www.usc.edu.au/SC810

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 resources 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 address proactively 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 and Education. 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.

MASTER OF
Creative Arts

Full-time: 1.5 years expected, 2 years maximum
Part-time: 3 years expected, 4 years maximum
Study mode: internal or external
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 041913G
Faculty: Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements:
www.usc.edu.au/AR811

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

Refer to page 15 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 proficiency requirements.

MASTER OF
Education
by Research

Full-time: 1.5 years expected, 2 years maximum
Part-time: 3 years expected, 4 years maximum
Study mode: internal or external
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 072639J
Faculty: Science, Health, Education and Engineering

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements:
www.usc.edu.au/ED802

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.

The 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 to page 17 for examples of research supported in 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. And 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

MASTER OF
Regional Planning by Research

Full–time: 1.5 years expected, 2 years maximum
Part–time: 3 years expected, 4 years maximum
Study mode: internal
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 070697D
Faculty: Arts and Business

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements:
www.usc.edu.au/AR863

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.

The program is designed for graduates of four-year undergraduate regional and urban planning programs. It may also be of interest to experienced practitioners who face a specific planning issue in their professional life and seek to research the matter in depth. 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: Methodology 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 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 proficiency requirements.

MASTER OF
Science

Full–time: 1.5 years expected, 2 years maximum
Part–time: 3 years expected, 4 years maximum
Study mode: internal or external
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 026640J
Faculty: Science, Health, Education and Engineering

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements:
www.usc.edu.au/SC801

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 to page 17 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.

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 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 HDR Coordinator, Faculty of Science, Health and Education. 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.

MASTER OF
Social Work
by Research

Full–time: 1.5 years minimum, 3 years maximum
Part–time: 3 years minimum, 4 years maximum
Study mode: internal
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: Not available to international students on a Student Visa
Faculty: Arts and Social Sciences

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.

The program offers opportunities to deepen your knowledge and understanding of social work practice and can be tailored to suit your individual interests. You complete one required research course and a thesis. The research component involves individualised research relevant to your key area/s of interest as a professional social worker.

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: Methodology 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 Dean, 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.

MASTER OF
Sports Nutrition
by Research

Full–time: 1.5 years expected, 2 years maximum
Part–time: 3 years expected, 4 years maximum
Study mode: internal or external*
Commence: Students can apply and start throughout the year, subject to program requirements
CRICOS code: 066893A
Faculty: Science, Health, Education and Engineering

Comprehensive program information and admission requirements: www.usc.edu.au/AR844

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 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.

COMMUNICATE COLLABORATE CONNECT

www.usc.edu.au/researchweek

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH WEEK

The University's annual Research Week took place in July 2012. Research week includes presentations from research staff and HDR students, including the Three Minute Thesis competition (3MT). In 3MT, HDR students get three minutes to present with minimum words and maximum impact in this popular annual competition. This year, seven postgraduate research students made it to the final.
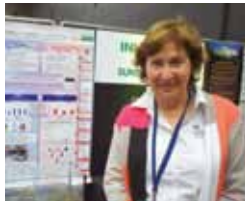
USC Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research Professor Roland De Marco said the competition challenged students to extend their skills by explaining their projects in an engaging way to a general audience within three minutes. The winner received A$1,000 towards their studies and a chance to compete in the 2012 Australian and New Zealand competition. This year, topics included: Nutrition at the Commonwealth Games; Jane Austen and the Elvis impersonator; the lived experience of disability in East Timor; My TERN (Take Emotional Responsibility Now); plus research into the Australian seafood industry, the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on human cells and the social representations of climate change.

Addressing the theme: 'Communicate, collaborate, connect', the 2012 program also featured more than a dozen new USC Research Fellows explaining their projects to the USC community. Their fields include aquaculture, forest sciences, water sciences and sustainability. Professor De Marco said their work and appointments were made possible through a A$5.45 million grant from the Commonwealth Government's Collaborative Research Networks (CRN) Program, as well as via Australian Research Council (ARC) funding and strategic investments by the University.

EAST TIMOR RESEARCH WINS 3MT

With an engaging presentation on researching the lives of East Timorese people with disabilities, Jane Shamrock, the winner of the 2012 3MT, is a long-time occupational therapist that recently returned to postgraduate study.

The Master of Science student beat six fellow early-career researchers from diverse fields to win the final and the A$1,000 prize. She will compete in the 2012 Australian and New Zealand thesis competition later this year. Corinna Bürgin-Maunder received the runner-up award for her presentation on research into the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on human cells, focused on the cardiovascular system and high blood pressure.

Ms Shamrock, who became an academic two years ago when she joined USC as a Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, used her three minutes to outline her upcoming project to examine the daily lives and needs of people with disabilities in East Timor. She first visited the country in 1974 and has returned there regularly over the past 10 years to do both paid and volunteer work. "I'm excited about my research and I'm so surprised and delighted to win this award," she said.

> "My research will be from and about people who don't normally have a voice."

The funding will help with travel expenses as Ms Shamrock returns to a remote community in East Timor in mid-August to start a month of fieldwork. "My research will be from and about people who don't normally have a voice," she said. "I'll take digital cameras and ask these people to record things they find significant. I can use those photos as the basis for discussion for research."

Her goal is to complete her research so it can assist western governments in planning aid programs for disadvantaged countries.

"There is a lot of aid available but there are still huge problems of poverty in East Timor, and people with disabilities have additional needs," she said.

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