

Research at UWS

www.uws.edu.au/research

‘UWS is entering a period of significant investment in its goal of becoming a major research institution.’

John Phillips, AO, Chancellor

As one of the largest universities in Australia, we are a driving force in the third largest economy and the most dynamic urban region in Australia.

Research Centres

Research centres are the flagships of the University and represent our primary research strengths. While the nature of academic life at UWS provides many and varied opportunities for research to be conducted in colleges and their schools, the term ‘research centre’ identifies areas that have been recognised for achieving significant research maturity through external reviews and benchmarks for quality and excellence.

Already significant, UWS is rapidly growing its research capacity – with an annual growth in external research income of over 20% in the last year. UWS research commitment is also supported by an additional **ten-year research investment fund** which has a funding of A\$50 million. We have robust research partnerships with industry, government and community sectors in our region and across Australia. UWS is one of the top five universities in Australia for research income from local government.

i For specific details on Research Centres at UWS, see pages 20–25

Research Groups

University research groups are established to support the development of researchers who share a common research focus and who can demonstrate their competitiveness in the national research landscape.

College	Research Centres	Research Groups
College of Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for Cultural Research Centre for Educational Research MARCS Auditory Laboratories Social Justice and Social Change Research Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing and Society
College of Health and Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre for Complementary Medicine Research (CompleMED) Centre for Plant and Food Science Urban Research Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursing Family Health, Outcomes, Resilience, Capacity Building Evidence (N-FORCE) Ecology and Environment Nanoscale Organisation and Dynamics
College of Business	Centre for Industry and Innovation Studies	

Research Themes

Research Themes	Focus
Children’s Futures	Brings together researchers from social work, sociology, cultural research, education, psychology and nursing, often with government and community sector partners.
Water Research	Brings together researchers from diverse fields, for example, engineering and cultural studies. Has resulted in research alliances with major agencies and utilities, in collaborative research projects with regional partners, and in studies carried out by individual researchers. Significant involvement in the CRC for Irrigation Futures focusing on urban irrigation.
Cultures and Community	Brings together researchers whose focus is on the complexities of cultures, language, and difference to problems facing contemporary social life.
Urban and Community	Brings together researchers from a wide range of fields including human geography, urban sociology, urban planning, property studies, health, social justice, regional economic, cultural studies, social ecology, environmental fields and tourism to collaborative problem solving research conducted on cities, urban and peri-urban areas and concerned with our interactions and relationships with those spaces.



Research Degrees at UWS

UWS research programs focus on well-articulated, high-impact research solutions under the leadership of visionary and productive researchers.

Doctoral Degrees (PhD)

Doctorates are completed within three years full-time candidature, with a maximum enrolment of four years full-time. The doctorate aims to produce graduates able to conduct independent research at the highest level of originality and quality. The PhD is recognition of successful research experience of international standard in the discipline. A PhD candidate should uncover new knowledge either by the discovery of new facts, the formulation of theories or the innovative re-interpretation of known data and established ideas.

Professional Doctorate (e.g. Doctor of Cultural Research, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Business Administration, Doctor of Creative Arts)

In addition to the information/comments on the doctorates above, professional doctorates provide extended and advanced training in professional fields where projects and investigations are more applied in nature and more obviously oriented to professional practice. The Professional Doctorate is designed to equip candidates to be critical consumers of research in a professional setting.

Masters (Honours)

The Masters (Honours) degree is completed within one or two years of full-time candidature. It is primarily undertaken as a supervised program of original research, though the depth of the research required for a Masters (Honours) degree would be less than that required for a PhD. The Masters (Honours) degree is aimed at the professional development of the candidate, with particular emphasis on research methodology appropriate to the field of study. It is intended to provide candidates with the opportunity to develop their potential for research, enhance their skills of problem identification and specification, and their ability to develop and present solutions.

Making a Difference...

UWS provides specific support to research students. Workshops are held on topics such as presentation skills, interpretative and quantitative methodologies, architecture of the thesis, project management, argumentation, and final stages of thesis preparation. The first year of enrolment has structured milestones to ensure steady progress. UWS postgraduate students have access to a strong and supportive research culture, and academics at the forefront of their field. Research helps to support teaching and postgraduate coursework programs as cutting-edge research outcomes are incorporated into the curriculum. This ensures you get the most technologically and theoretically up-to-date material in your studies. You can therefore be confident about applying your University-acquired knowledge in the workplace. Through cooperative links with government agencies and private companies, UWS links students to research and employment opportunities in the local region. We welcome inquiries about our ability to cater to your special field of postgraduate research interest.

Academic Supervisors

All UWS research students have a panel of expert academic supervisors to broaden access to intellectual development. Supervisors are guided by the policies of the University and professional support from the Office of Research Services. Students receive quality attention as supervisors may only supervise a manageable number of students. To update the specialist skills involved in research education, supervisors attend regular professional workshops.

Research Applications

Research applicants negotiate a topic of study with an academic adviser and work independently under the guidance of a supervisory panel. You are strongly advised to discuss your application with an academic adviser. You can contact a Research Centre directly for assistance to find suitable academic advisers. It is important that the best possible supervisor is found for your topic and that the topic is one that can be conducted at UWS.

For more information

Up-to-date and detailed information about the admission criteria for UWS research degrees and application forms can be found at www.uws.edu.au/about/adminorg/devint/ors/degrees/prospective/admissioncriteria