

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH



Research

2016

UNLIM

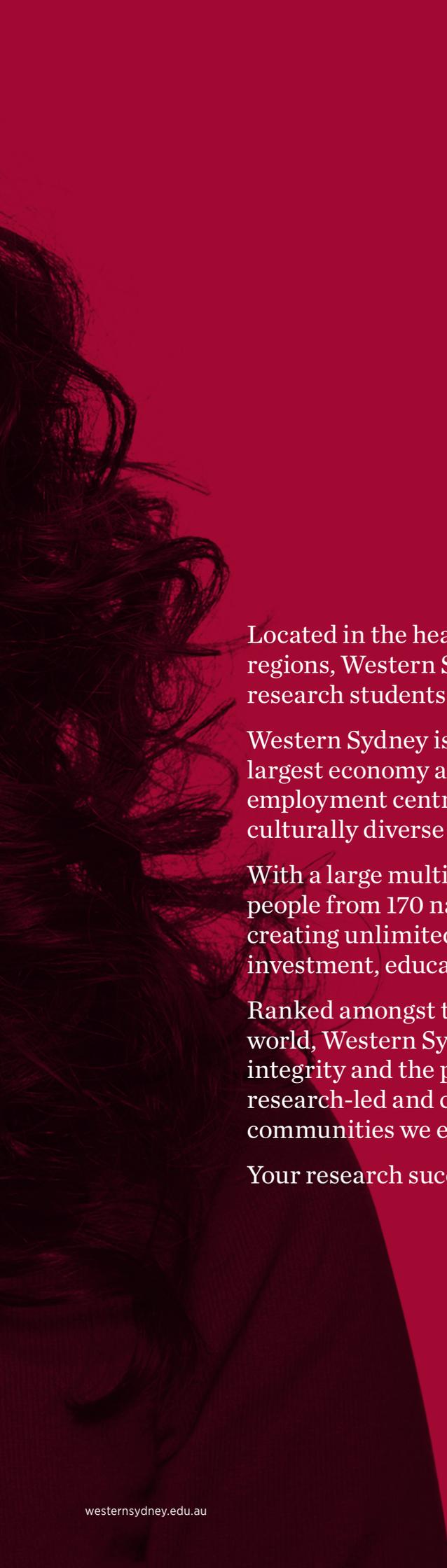
UNLIMITED.

WE BELIEVE IN A WORLD OF
UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY,
WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR
SUCCESS IS UNLIMITED FOR
THOSE WITH DRIVE, TALENT,
CONFIDENCE AND AMBITION.

SUCCESS STARTS HERE.



WE ARE WESTERN SYDNEY



Located in the heart of one of Australia's fastest growing economic regions, Western Sydney University offers unlimited potential to research students with the talent, drive and ambition to succeed.

Western Sydney is an exciting place to be. As the nation's third largest economy and one of the fastest growing population and employment centres, it is an increasingly important, dynamic and culturally diverse hub of business, industry and innovation.

With a large multicultural population of more than two million people from 170 nations, Western Sydney's global links are creating unlimited opportunity for international business, investment, education, research and cultural exchange.

Ranked amongst the top two per cent of universities in the world, Western Sydney University values academic excellence, integrity and the pursuit of knowledge. We are globally focused, research-led and committed to making a positive impact on the communities we engage with.

Your research success starts here.

IMPACT

Research with impact.

Western Sydney University is a world-class university with a growing international reach and reputation for academic excellence and impact-driven research.

AAC T

Located in the heart of one of Australia's fastest growing economic regions with a large and diverse multicultural population, Western Sydney University also offers unlimited potential for graduate research students to participate in research which produces career-ready, solutions-focused students who can solve problems and adapt to new opportunities.

Our research doesn't just happen in the lab. We work with regional, national and international partners to deliver research outcomes that contribute to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their communities.

Responding to the challenges faced by those communities, our current research themes are:

- **Urban living and society**
People, culture, economy and the built environment
- **Health and wellbeing**
Translation, service and innovation
- **Education and aspirational change**
Access, equity and pathways
- **Environmental sustainability**
Climate, agriculture and resources

See page 16 for more information.

Already boasting world-leading research output, we are transforming research education through the development of a frontier research training program. We're also continuing to invest in areas of research strength, our facilities and high-quality research education.

RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

GRANTS AWARDED

- \$4.67 million in Australian Research Council (ARC) grants for 2015
- \$1.4 million across four Discovery Early Career Research Awards
- \$1.7 million to lead 6 new Discovery Projects
- \$1.5 million for 4-year Future Fellowships to two research staff

Top 2%

Times Higher Education
World University Rankings

Top 20

for research performance

\$9.7m

in grants awarded

43,000+

students

100,000+

graduates

WHY RESEARCH WITH US?



→ **A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE**

Western Sydney University is ranked amongst the top two per cent of universities in the world, with a growing international reputation for research-led, student-centred learning.

→ **OUR RESEARCH HAS GLOBAL IMPACT**

Our research ethos is underpinned by a commitment to make positive change – putting you close to world-leading research that is changing lives in the communities we serve across Western Sydney, Australia and the world.

→ **LEADERSHIP IN ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S FASTEST GROWING REGIONS**

Western Sydney is Australia's third largest and fastest growing economy. With a large multicultural population and expanding international reach, we are uniquely placed to help research students tap into a global mindset.

→ **WE ARE GLOBALLY FOCUSED AND CONNECTED**

With our growing international reach and reputation, we offer the opportunity to travel, learn and work in more than 300 destinations around the world through our internship, work experience and overseas study options. Through our Master of Research (MResearch) program, we also encourage international students to undertake Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies with us (see page 33).

→ **OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK OR COLLABORATE**

We invite outstanding graduate researchers, new generation researchers and established researchers to join us or collaborate with us.

→ **LEADING RESEARCH FACILITIES**

Attracting postgraduates from around the world, our leading research institutes and state-of-the-art facilities provide a research-intensive environment with vibrant, well-resourced hubs for research training.

→ **INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED MASTERS DEGREE**

As an internationally recognised elite research degree that aligns with Asian, European and North American qualifications, our Master of Research allows students to advance their research education and employment opportunities around the world (see page 33).

→ **GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL**

Supporting all postgraduate research degrees, including the new Master of Research and Master of Philosophy degrees, our new Graduate Research School offers improved services to Higher Degree Research students (see page 32).

Engaged Research

Western Sydney University is committed to working with major funding bodies, including state and federal governments, to translate our research into valuable applications for our stakeholders.

Our industry peers and government partners acknowledge that Western Sydney University delivers research outcomes that have an impact on regional, national and international communities.

Through strong linkages with other leading research teams around the world, our researchers are opening up connections that can benefit research degree candidates throughout their careers. Visiting researchers and research placements also bring fresh perspectives to research questions.



Research Engagement, Development and Innovation

Established in 2014, our Research Engagement, Development and Innovation (REDI) team supports the University's outward-facing research, consultancy and commercialisation activities.

Bringing together previously distinct groups from within the Office for Commercial and Estate Development (OCED) and Western Innovation, REDI is a single, high profile and commercially focused channel for industry, government and the community to engage with the University's expertise.

REDI identifies, supports and administers opportunities for the practical application of the University's research and commercial capacity – ranging from fee-for-service consultancies, to collaborative research projects, and the development and commercialisation of Intellectual Property (IP).

Since its establishment, REDI has driven several strategic initiatives to support the University's mission to promote and conduct research with impact. Together with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), REDI is leading the implementation of Easy Access Intellectual Property – a model to support university/industry partnerships by offering partners simple royalty-free licences to parts of Western Sydney University's IP portfolio.

REDI has also led the revision of the principles underpinning commercial consultancy. The revised principles support our researchers' engagement in this type of non-traditional academic activity, making it easier for external parties to access the high-quality research and professional expertise available at Western Sydney University.

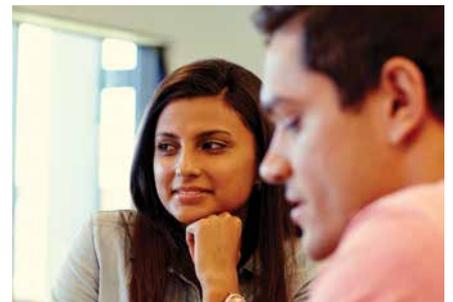
Supporting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship

One of REDI's primary goals is to support a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship within the University and with its partners. REDI has presented at and been an active participant in Early Career Researcher (ECR) and Future Research Leader Programs (FRLP), Directors of Research forums and many school and institute research meetings.

The REDI team has facilitated and supported numerous meetings between our researchers and external partners to explore and formalise opportunities to partner across a broad range of research disciplines and sectors.

Western Sydney University is a member of the following industry groups:

- Australasian Research Management Society
- Council of Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies in Australia
- Australasian Research Training Administrators
- Association for Tertiary Education Management





Impact snapshot

Staying on at School

Strategies for increasing high school completion rates in low-retention regions of NSW

Research conducted by Western Sydney University into the factors that affect students' decisions to stay at or leave school found that student retention rates to year 12 across NSW can be as low as 50 per cent. After collecting three years of data from 2000 students in regional areas with the worst retention rates, our researchers mapped young people's pathways through school and identified the roadblocks and ways to keep Western Sydney students in school.

Impact snapshot

Less Waste and Cheaper

The use of innovative anchors for rehabilitating existing demountable steel

The way things connect is important. Our engineering researchers have been looking at how concrete and steel can be fixed together using 'blind bolts' to allow building materials and entire buildings to be recycled.

An estimated 40% of landfill is created by the construction industry. When you combine this with the cost of new materials, it all fits together: less waste and cheaper construction that benefits industry and the environment.

Our State-of-the-art Research Facilities

- **BIOMEDICAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE FACILITY**
- **SECONDARY ION MASS SPECTROMETER**
- **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**
- **NURSING LABORATORIES**
- **MOOT COURTS**
- **PARRAMATTA COMMUNITY JUSTICE CLINIC**
- **CRIME SCENE HOUSE**
- **MECHATRONICS FACILITY AND FOOD PROCESSING PILOT PLANT**
- **FOUR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED RESEARCH INSTITUTES (SEE PAGE 20)**
- **ADDITIONAL COMPLEMENTARY FACILITIES THROUGH OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES, HOSPITALS, CLINICS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

Our Research Themes

Our research doesn't just happen in the lab. We work with regional, national and international partners to deliver research outcomes that contribute to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their communities.

URBAN LIVING AND SOCIETY

People, Culture, Economy, and Built Environment

Research within this theme is focused on understanding and guiding economic, social and infrastructure change through the lens of urban living and the social formations that flow from it. Our current and expanding research expertise in urban planning, the digital humanities, infrastructure engineering, innovation networks, social cohesion, cultural studies and globalisation will serve the community as it adapts to the challenges of urban change.

EDUCATION

Access, Equity, Pathways and Aspirational Change

We draw on the diversity of Western Sydney to underpin research that explores educational access on a global scale. This research theme respects the economic, social and cultural aspirations of the individuals and communities we support. We are committed to realising the opportunities offered by new pedagogies and transformational technologies for all students.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

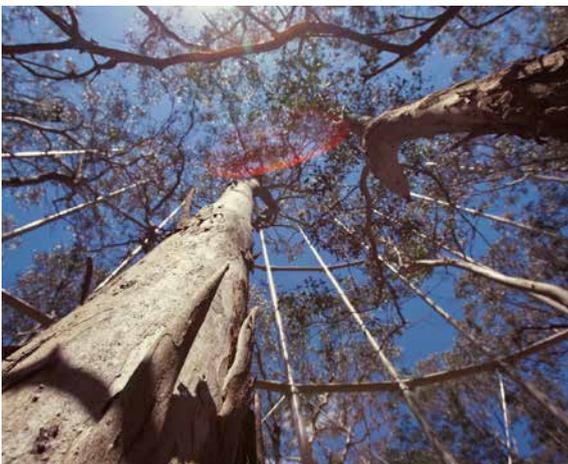
Translation, Service and Innovation

Western Sydney University's long history as a major educator of health professionals was enhanced with the addition of its medical school in 2007. Our research capacity systematically explores how health initiatives can prevent disease and illness, encourage healthy lifestyles in individuals and communities, and reduce the cost and impact of illness. With a practical focus on translating basic research into community health services and policy, we are primarily concerned with the needs of the individual within a complex health system.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Climate, Agriculture and Resources

Our research in this area explores global problems within local environments, including food security, resource scarcity and climate change. Taking a broad, interdisciplinary approach to sustainability, our research (in any geographical region) will have an impact on these global issues. Research within this theme acknowledges that environmental sustainability is as important in the city as it is in the bush, and that sustainability relies on insights from sociology, the arts, engineering, green IT, education, health and economics as well as the biological and physical sciences.





Focus Areas

Western Sydney University is a research-led university that sees learning and research as connected aspects of the student experience.

Futures

Through innovative and engaged research training, we are unlocking the potential of the next generation of researchers and practitioners. By undertaking research that engages with the opportunities and potential of its stakeholders, we are influencing policy and practice throughout the region, and contributing to scholarship and practice at a national and international level. As a young, flexible and dynamic institution, we can shape our research program and develop new researchers to meet the needs of our communities. In order to respond to a rapidly growing, culturally diverse community in the Western Sydney area, we are committed to collaborating with regional, national and international partners to ensure we adopt best practice research.

Capacity

Western Sydney University is deepening its research capacity through strategic investments in research institutes, centres and external network groups. Our selective and concentrated approach to building research capacity at Institute and School level ensures a diversified mix of funding including a greater proportion of external income. With a higher proportion of our staff securing external research income, structural reform will enable intensive and open collaboration between all researchers. Researchers are also supported to access external networks, respond to research opportunities and develop impact through an alignment of resources, processes and outcomes.

Impact

As our international profile and reputation grows, our research capacity expands through financial and non-financial collaborations with external partners. Fast becoming a sector leader in the delivery and measurement of research impact, we are delivering demonstrable benefits to our communities and partners. Our research has diverse impacts beyond the institution on all spheres of public and private endeavour. Acknowledged by our industry peers and government partners as a university focused on delivering research outcomes to its regional, national and international communities, we are committed to working with major funding bodies and state and federal governments to translate our research into valuable applications for our stakeholders.

Impact snapshot

Sustained Groundwater Capacity

Improved village scale groundwater recharge and management for agriculture and livelihood development in India

Across India, small-hold farmers rely on groundwater irrigation, but with an increasing capacity to exploit the resource through technology and an expanding population exploiting it, demand has outstripped supply. Our researchers are working with local farmers and communities to improve long-term access to groundwater. Together with an Indian research team and NGOs, the research will deliver new policies to sustain groundwater capacity.



INSTITUTES

**HAWKESBURY INSTITUTE
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE
AND SOCIETY**

**INSTITUTE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
ENGINEERING**

THE MARCS INSTITUTE

HAWKESBURY INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Hawkesbury campus

Investigating the impact of climate change on native trees and forests

More information

→ Phone: +61 2 4570 1125

→ Email: hieinfo@westernsydney.edu.au

→ westernsydney.edu.au/hie

INSTITUTE FOR CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Parramatta campus

Research to meet the challenges of our changing social landscape

More information

→ Phone: +61 2 9685 9600

→ Email: ics@westernsydney.edu.au

→ westernsydney.edu.au/ics

INSTITUTE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING

Kingswood campus

Promoting 'smart engineering' to improve infrastructure systems

More information

→ Phone: +61 2 4736 0106

→ Email: iie-admin@westernsydney.edu.au

→ westernsydney.edu.au/iie

THE MARCS INSTITUTE

Bankstown campus

Dedicated to understanding the scientific basis of human communication

More information

→ Phone: +61 2 9772 6585

→ Email: marcs@westernsydney.edu.au

→ westernsydney.edu.au/marcs

Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

A rapidly changing climate is imposing increasingly variable conditions on the world's ecosystems, bringing increasing uncertainty about how they will adapt.

A rapidly changing climate is imposing increasingly variable conditions on the world's ecosystems, bringing increasing uncertainty about how they will adapt.

The Hawkesbury Institute's team of scientists are meeting this challenge by using the best scientific technologies to discover how our natural environments are responding to land use change from genetic through to ecosystem levels.

Equipped with leading-edge facilities, the Hawkesbury Institute is the ideal environment for researching our managed and natural

ecosystems. For example, an 'ecological time machine' that uses a gigantic structure over an intact mature forest ecosystem is providing a look into a future, high CO₂ world. The EucFACE experiment allows scientists to study the response to high CO₂ of the entire forest ecosystem. Research at the Hawkesbury Institute is having a global impact and our scientists are renowned for their work in ecology, forestry, and plant, animal and soil sciences.

The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation ranked the institute's research well above world standard (highest possible score of 5) in plant biology and forestry, and above world standard (score of 4) in soil sciences and ecology.

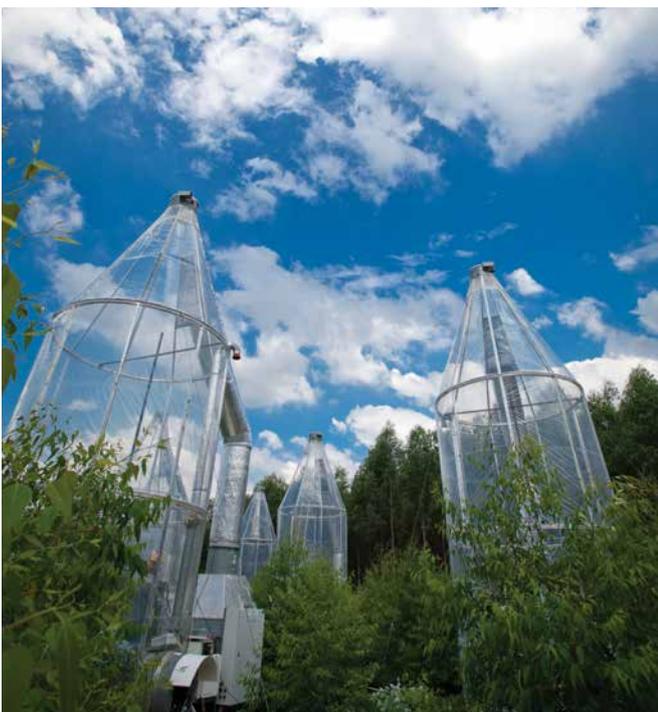
Two areas of specialisation, plant biology and forestry sciences within the Institute were characterised in the ERA as 'of outstanding performance' and received the highest possible rating of '5'.

FIND OUT MORE

Phone: +61 2 4570 1125

Email: hieinfo@westernsydney.edu.au

westernsydney.edu.au/hie



Institute for Culture and Society

The way we live is changing at an unprecedented rate. Economic instability, rapid developments in technology, and environmental crises are among the major global trends that are transforming culture and society.

Western Sydney University is undertaking research to help us understand, interpret and meet the challenges of this changing social landscape. Based at our Parramatta campus, the institute champions interdisciplinary, engaged and collaborative scholarship in the humanities, arts and social sciences. It adopts a future-oriented perspective to bring the opportunities of the digital age into all aspects of its research.

The institute's research themes cover dynamic areas such as intercultural dialogue, transnational culture, institutional governance, economic and cultural globalisation, heritage, creative industries and city cultures.

The institute has the largest concentration of researchers working in the interdisciplinary field of Cultural Studies in Australia. The high calibre of its researchers was recognised in the 2012 Excellence for Research in Australia (ERA) audit, with a '4' rating - indicating 'above world standard' - in the field of Cultural Studies.

FIND OUT MORE

Phone: +61 2 9685 9600

Email: ics@westernsydney.edu.au

westernsydney.edu.au/ics



Institute for Infrastructure Engineering

A rapidly developing world needs safe, reliable infrastructure systems such as bridges, buildings, dams, roads, airports and electricity and pipe networks.

Engineers are tapping into today's advanced technology to constantly improve the performance of existing and new infrastructure.

The institute is expanding the field of engineering research beyond traditional engineering disciplines to consider all aspects of the analysis, assessment, design, construction, maintenance and repair of infrastructure, including materials and systems.

Based at the Penrith campus, the institute also promotes smart engineering through research into smart structures and smart materials.

The institute's Structural Research and Testing Laboratory has facilities for both static and dynamic testing of materials, structural components and assemblies. To address future infrastructure challenges, the institute is facilitating wider collaborations with other disciplines, including computing, mathematics, science, business and medicine.

The institute has identified four main themes to underpin its state-of-the-art research. These include Infrastructure Systems, Infrastructure Materials, Infrastructure Computing and Infrastructure Health Monitoring.

Four discipline areas in engineering – which reflect the research activity of the institute and the School of Computing, Mathematics and Engineering – scored at or above world standard. Three received ratings of '3' and one received a rating of '4'.

FIND OUT MORE

Phone: +61 2 4736 0106

Email: iie-admin@westernsydney.edu.au

westernsydney.edu.au/iie



MARCS Institute

At the MARCS Institute for brain, behaviour and development we study the scientific basis of human communication.

Our interdisciplinary team spans psychology, engineering, linguistics, neuroscience, and computer science. Linking the power of social and biological science research methods we investigate factors influencing perceptual, cognitive, creative and social skills from infancy to adulthood. This includes exploring real and virtual worlds in normal, heightened and degraded contexts, within and across different cultures.

MARCS Institute research on brain, behaviour and development encompasses such areas as how we learn language and handle foreign accents, how to program robots for human interaction, how we can enhance communication with infants (those with hearing impairments, and the elderly), and how music and dance communicate universally.

We apply our work to advanced technology, biomedical engineering, and improving physical and mental health. We do this by designing electronics inspired by neural systems, building better biomedical devices, analysing heightened performance in the creative arts, and addressing impaired performance in developmental delay and sensory deficit.

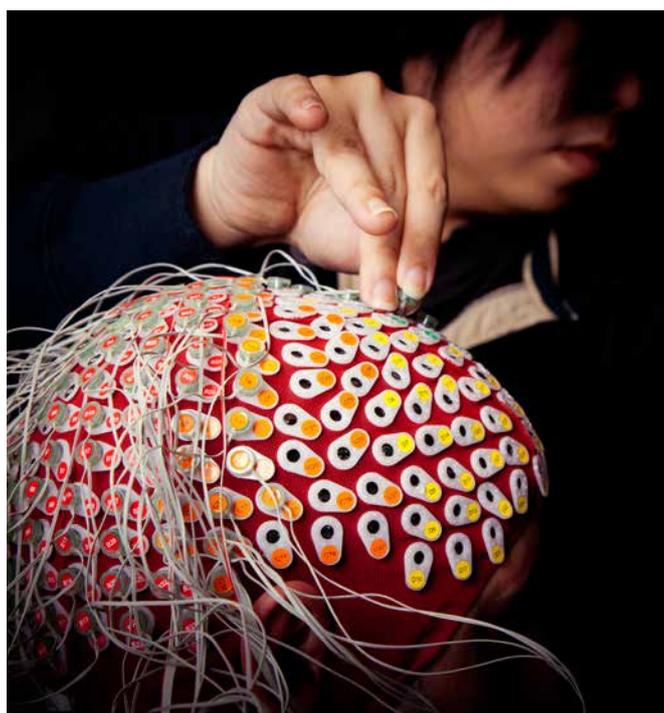
The MARCS Institute's discipline areas scored at or above world standard rating in disciplines as diverse as cognitive science, linguistics and performing arts and creative writing. The institute is a key partner in the new Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language.

FIND OUT MORE

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westernsydney.edu.au/marcs



RESEARCH CENTRES

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE (NICM)**

**CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL
RESEARCH (CER)**

CENTRE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

**CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN
MATHEMATICS**

**WRITING AND SOCIETY
RESEARCH CENTRE**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE (NICM)

Campbelltown campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 4620 3284
- Email: nicm@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/nicm

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (CER)

Kingswood campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 4736 0258
- Email: margaret.somerville@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/cer

CENTRE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

Campbelltown campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 4620 3669
- Email: chr@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/chr

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS

Parramatta Campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 9852 5222
- Email: crm@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/crm

WRITING AND SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTRE

Bankstown campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 9772 6780
- Email: writing@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/writing

RESEARCH GROUPS

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
RESEARCH GROUP**

**DIGITAL HUMANITIES
RESEARCH INITIATIVE**

**MOLECULAR MEDICINE
RESEARCH GROUP**

**NANOSCALE ORGANISATION
AND DYNAMICS RESEARCH
GROUP (NANO)**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH GROUP

Penrith campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 4736 0746
- Email: yan@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/scm

DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Parramatta campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 9685 9401
- Email: p.arthur@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/dhrg

MOLECULAR MEDICINE RESEARCH GROUP

Campbelltown campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 4620 3802
- Email: j.coorssen@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/molecular_medicine

NANOSCALE ORGANISATION AND DYNAMICS RESEARCH GROUP (NANO)

Campbelltown campus

More information

- Phone: +61 2 4620 3336
- Email: nano@westernsydney.edu.au
- westernsydney.edu.au/nanoscale

Unlimited opportunities for success.

Western Sydney University is unlocking the potential of the next generation of researchers, global citizens, leaders and change-makers through innovative and engaged research training.

OPPOR

With a thriving research training environment supported by dedicated academic and professional staff, our research programs are designed to ensure students achieve success.

Our commitment to the highest standards of research integrity and ethical practices is not simply a matter of compliance. As a deeply social activity, our research enterprise is embedded in the trust between researchers and the emerging researchers they supervise, those who support their endeavour by participating in research, and the community which values their creation of new knowledge.

The University encourages candidates to participate in national and international conferences and to publish the results of their work as they progress. We also offer practical support including funds for expenses directly related to research, a conference support scheme, regular free workshops, online workshop resources, and expert assistance on mathematical and statistical techniques.

TUNNITY

Graduate Research School

Launched in 2015, the Western Sydney University's Graduate Research School (GRS) provides centralised services for the administration of all research degrees at Western Sydney.

The GRS exists to ensure you have a smooth journey into the University and through your studies as we look after all aspects of research candidature including:

- student recruitment, admission, enrolment and re-enrolment
- scholarship applications, conditions, stipend, allowances and variations
- candidature including confirmation and progress reports
- submission and examination of thesis (we have an ever-growing 'wall of fame' we are proud of)
- workshop and Seminar series for all HDR candidates
- supervisor training for staff to ensure our students have the best supervisors possible

Western Sydney's current Higher Degree Research candidates are essential to our increasing international research reputation. All postgraduate research candidates are provided with numerous opportunities to gain superior skills and training through coursework options, seminars and workshops to ensure you are career-ready and highly competitive for global careers in:

- industry and business: researcher, consumer and social research, public relations, publishing, personnel work, training, marketing and human resources
- community and non-profit organisations: administration, overseas aid and development agencies, social research, policy development and lobbying
- government: policy development and analysis, general administration and social research
- academia: after completion of your PhD you will be able to pursue postdoctoral or lectureship positions

Western Sydney University has also led the way in preparing our undergraduate students for careers that do not exist yet through our Academy program which include skills around creativity, critical thinking, mistakability (learning from your mistakes) and interdisciplinary knowledge. As a postgraduate student at Western Sydney University, these are also areas you will be developing.

The team at the Graduate Research School, along with your academic supervisors who are leading researchers in their field, are here to assist you to achieve in this vibrant research environment.



Degrees for Success

With a focus on contemporary social issues and scientific problems, our research degrees are designed to produce career-ready, solution-focussed researchers who can solve new problems and adapt to emerging opportunities in a constantly changing world.

Master of Philosophy

The Master of Philosophy degree is primarily undertaken as a supervised program of original research, though the depth of the research required is less than that required for a PhD.

The degree is an opportunity to develop and enhance analytical and research skills through independent investigation in a specific field. The Master of Philosophy 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.

The Master of Philosophy degree is completed within 1-2 years full-time candidature.

Master of Research

Western Sydney University is transforming research education and training by developing a frontier research training program.

The Master of Research is an elite research training degree that aligns with Asian, European and North American qualifications. As an internationally recognised qualification it allows you to be globally mobile in advancing your research education and employment opportunities. The program will deliver an in-depth research training experience that combines specialist disciplinary knowledge, an advanced understanding of research methodologies, and a year of independent research conducted under expert supervision. The program provides you with the necessary educational experiences and expert knowledge to enable a confident approach to PhD studies and your future career.

Our vibrant research culture offers a combination of advanced coursework which attracts Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP), followed by a year of Higher Degree Research including a research training place via the Research Training Scheme, which does not attract any tuition fees.

The Master of Research degree is completed in 2 years full-time, or part-time equivalent.

Scholarships for domestic students are available. For further information please visit westernsydney.edu.au/MResearch



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree provides training and education with the objective of producing graduates with the capacity to conduct research independently at a high level of originality and quality.

A PhD candidate will 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.

The award of a PhD is recognition of successful research experience of international standard in the discipline.

PhDs are completed within 3 years full-time candidature, with a maximum enrolment of four years full-time, or part-time equivalent.

Candidates undertake their independent research under the expert guidance of a panel of supervisors.

Professional Doctorate

These degrees include the Doctor of Education, Doctor of Creative Arts, Doctor of Cultural Research and Doctor of Business Administration.

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.

Doctorates are completed within 3 years full-time candidature, with a maximum enrolment of four years full-time, or part-time equivalent.

Candidates undertake their independent research under the expert guidance of a panel of supervisors.



International Research Training Partnerships Scholarships

Through partnerships with other research institutions around the world, Western Sydney University has established dual awards and joint higher degrees which allow doctoral and research Masters candidates to move between countries under joint supervision and enrolment arrangements.

Under a dual award doctoral or research Masters thesis submission, candidates follow an agreed single examination process and receive an award from each institution, (qualified by the statement that the degree was obtained under a dual award degree agreement). A dual award degree provides for two degrees to be granted – from both the primary and partner institution. Under a joint doctoral or joint research Masters, a single award and testamur is awarded including the logos of the participating institutions.

Doctoral and research Masters candidates under both dual award and joint degree arrangements benefit from the opportunity to work while accessing the latest research equipment, facilities and expertise in more than one institution. You'll also obtain awards that facilitate professional and global mobility.

International students

International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRSs) cover the full cost of tuition and overseas student health cover, including a living allowance.

The University also offers University-funded equivalent scholarships.

You are invited to apply if you live outside Australia and New Zealand, are enrolling in a research degree (not coursework), have not yet begun that degree program, do not hold an equivalent degree, and are not a recipient of an Australian Government-funded Postgraduate Award. These scholarships are awarded competitively based on academic merit.

A range of specialist scholarships are also available. For more information visit westernsydney.edu.au/research/scholarships

Domestic students

Citizens and Permanent Residents of Australia and New Zealand citizens are eligible to apply for prestigious Australian Postgraduate Awards funded by the Australian Government.

The University may also offer University-funded Postgraduate Research Awards each year.

In both schemes, successful applicants will be awarded a funded place in the course, receive a tax-free stipend, and may be eligible for relocation and thesis allowances. Additional funding may also be awarded to the highest ranked applicants. All domestic Higher Degree Research candidates at Western Sydney University have a fully-funded place in their course.

Scholarships and awards

Many competitive research grants also provide the opportunity to undertake research projects and be supported by a stipend scholarship. Industry-funded scholarships often focus on specific research challenges as part of wider research projects.

For more information about scholarships contact your academic supervisor or view currently available scholarships at westernsydney.edu.au/research/scholarships



University Life

Western Sydney is an exciting place to be. Strategically located within Sydney and the Asia-Pacific region, the fast-growing economic region is home to more than 240,000 businesses including many of Australia's top companies, government agencies and services, major multinationals, small-to-medium enterprises, start-ups and an emerging high-tech sector.

With a large multicultural population of more than two million people from 170 nations, Western Sydney's global links are creating unlimited opportunities for international business, investment, education and cultural exchange.

Like many emerging economies around the world, the region's potential is fuelled by a growing young and aspirational population living on the edge of innovation.

Lifestyle

As a student at Western Sydney University, you become part of a dynamic, thriving and culturally rich community. There are diverse opportunities for sport and recreation, entertainment, going out and engaging with the community – both on and off campus.

From the ultra-modern and high-tech to more serene, pastoral environments, each of our nine campuses is different – but all are friendly, multicultural and inclusive.

Our on-campus facilities include libraries, computer laboratories, wireless internet, cafes, bars, gyms, sporting grounds, tennis courts, and lots of open space to hang out in.

With a range of on-campus clubs and associations there are also lots of opportunities to meet new people with similar interests, make friends, and explore a variety of cultural, course-related and other activities.

Living on campus

Western Sydney University offers a wide range of high-quality, affordable accommodation options across our campuses. Our Residential Colleges provide a choice of catered and self-catered rooms – from dormitories and residential halls to cottages, townhouses and villas – on most campuses. Rooms can also be furnished with beds, desks, fridges and more. For more about our accommodation options call 1300 897 669 (in Australia), +61 2 8760 0012 (outside Australia) or visit westernsydney.edu.au/village

Living locally

The Western Sydney region has a vast range of affordable apartments and share housing. Check out the popular real estate listing websites in Australia such as domain.com.au and realestate.com.au



Student Snapshot

Table 1

Student Headcount by Residency Status, Onshore and Offshore, 2010–14 (p)
(Includes The College)

RESIDENCY STATUS	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014(p)
Domestic	33,280	34,989	35,986	37,596	40,583
International – onshore	4,184	4,021	3,846	3,896	4,420
International – offshore	431	451	425	431	380
Total	37,895	39,461	40,257	41,923	45,383

Source: Western Sydney University Department of Education Submissions

Table 2

Commencing Student Headcount by Residency Status, Onshore and Offshore, 2010–14 (p)
(Includes The College)

RESIDENCY STATUS	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014(p)
Domestic	13,429	13,339	13,219	14,288	15,544
International – onshore	2,167	1,928	1,792	1,900	2,284
International – offshore	160	163	145	161	112
Total	15,756	15,430	15,156	16,349	17,940

Source: Western Sydney University Department of Education Submissions

Table 3

Student Headcount by Gender, 2010–14 (p)
(Includes The College)

GENDER	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014(p)
Females	21,142	21,852	22,372	23,109	24,933
Males	16,753	17,609	17,885	18,814	20,450
Total	37,895	39,461	40,257	41,923	45,383

Source: Western Sydney University Department of Education Submissions

Table 4

Student Headcount by Course Level, 2012–14 (p)
(Includes The College)

COURSE LEVEL	2012	%	2013	%	2014(p)	%
Undergraduate	32,865	81.6	34,207	81.6	36,554	80.5
Higher degree by coursework	5,672	14.1	5,792	13.8	6,306	13.9
Higher degree by research	964	2.4	983	2.3	962	2.1
Other*	756	1.9	941	2.2	1,561	3.4
Total	40,257	100.0	41,923	100.0	45,383	100.0

*Other includes enabling, non-award and cross-institutional

Source: Western Sydney University Department of Education Submissions

(p): provisional figures only

Support Services

Free of charge Higher Degree Research (HDR) workshops, targeted to your needs at particular stages of your candidature, are open to all research candidates enrolled at Western Sydney University.

Select workshops that are best suited to your aims at each stage of your degree and, if unsure, please check with your supervisor. You may also attend workshops more than once at different stages of your candidature.

For more information visit westernsydney.edu.au/research/workshops



Tuition Fees

The term 'tuition fees' refers to course fees paid by Higher Degree Research (HDR) students for the attendance pattern and discipline area in which they are enrolled.

Please note that 'tuition fees' do not include other expenses associated with university study such as books, equipment, accommodation and living expenses.

Student Services and Amenities Fee

Research students will be liable for a twice yearly Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF). For more information about the fee visit westernsydney.edu.au/fees

International Student Tuition Fees

For information on Higher Degree Research Fees please visit westernsydney.edu.au/fees

Doctor of Business Administration Tuition Fees

For further information on fees and charges please refer to westernsydney.edu.au/fees

Research Training Scheme (RTS)

Candidates who have an RTS place are not required to pay tuition fees.

All commencing higher degree by research places for Australian citizens and permanent residents, and NZ citizens are funded by the Australian Government under the Research Training Scheme (RTS). RTS places are awarded to commencing students for a maximum period of two years full-time equivalent for a Masters student, and four years full-time equivalent for a doctoral student. Confirmation of availability of a funded place for eligible students will be made at the time of admission.

There is no stipend attached to a Research Training Scheme place, however, all research candidates are provided with the resources they need to support their project.

It is Australian Government policy that applicants who have partly completed a research degree previously, at Western Sydney University or elsewhere, may have the previous period of candidature deducted from the maximum time allowed.

Master of Research

If you are applying for the Master of Research, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/research for course-specific information about entry requirements and unique fee structure which are different to a PhD and Master of Philosophy.



How to Apply

Before joining our research community and becoming a graduate research student you should discuss your interests and experience with the relevant institute, centre or group. Alternatively contact the Graduate Research School.

Note, there is no need to find a supervisor before applying for the Master of Research.

If you and the relevant academic staff member agree you should apply for Higher Degree Research studies at Western Sydney University, then the next step is to apply for admission to the degree program. This is also the time to apply for a scholarship, if you wish.

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT:

Course Information Centre

Phone: 1300 897 669

Email: study@westernsydney.edu.au

Graduate Research School

Email: grs@westernsydney.edu.au

westernsydney.edu.au/graduate_research_school/grs

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

Course Enquiries

Phone: +61 2 9852 5499

Email: internationalstudy@westernsydney.edu.au

International Admission Enquiries

Phone: +61 2 9685 9280

Email: uwsiadmissions@westernsydney.edu.au

Current Western Sydney University International Student Enquiries

Student Central

SEIS International Liaison Officers

Phone: 1300 668 370

Email: studentcentral@westernsydney.edu.au

Student Welfare Service

International Student Welfare Coordinator
Student Welfare Officer (International)

TO APPLY TODAY VISIT:

westernsydney.edu.au/applyonline

for Higher Degree Study at Western Sydney University (PhD, Master of Philosophy, Master of Research, Professional Doctorate).

The University of Western Sydney, trading as Western Sydney University, reserves the right at all times to withdraw or vary courses listed within this publication. Variations may include but are not limited to location of its courses on the University's campuses or other locations. In the event that a course within this publication is to be changed or withdrawn, applicants will be advised by mail to the address specified by them on their UAC application before the last date for the change of preferences

for the main round. In respect of course location change, students should be aware of the need to accommodate such changes for the whole or part of courses for which they enrol. The University also reserves the right to update, amend or replace online versions of this publication without notice.

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