



University of
South Australia

STUDY A RESEARCH DEGREE



MASTER OF RESEARCH // DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) // PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE

Change the world with us

We do research degrees differently. Through a project-based approach, we partner with organisations to address current and future challenges relevant to business, industry and the wider community.

You can apply for an established topic, with a supervisory panel of research leaders and industry experts, often packaged with a fee-waiver and scholarship. Or, if you have a topic that you want to explore – we're there for you too.

You'll learn from experts, connect with industry, go beyond and become an expert in your field. So what are you waiting for? Stop at nothing and make a difference today.



At UniSA, we've launched the new project-based research degree. Whether you apply for an existing project or develop your own – your project will be supported by world-class researchers, and connected with industry, end-users, government, and communities. Your research degree will enable you to explore a challenge and deliver research for good.

We've designed our research degrees for the future, empowering our candidates to achieve research excellence with career relevance.

You may be currently studying or have significant professional experience and want to channel your expertise and interests into research. Wherever you are in your career, a research degree at UniSA can help you take your career to the next level.

I look forward to welcoming you as a Master of Research, Professional Doctorate or PhD student at Australia's University of Enterprise.

*Professor Sandra Orgeig
Dean of Graduate Studies*

#1 in Australia for research impact and engagement

*2018 ARC Engagement and Impact Assessment (EI),
Combined Impact – Approach to Impact.*

100% of our research at or above world-class

*2018 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA),
4-digit Fields of Research.*

#1 young university in Australia for industry collaborations

2022 THE Young University Rankings – Industry Income Indicator.

On the cover: 'Seeing is believing' by Santhni Subramaniam.

Len Garces, UniSA Mathematics PhD Candidate.

Our enterprising research

Our research is inventive and adventurous, and we create new knowledge that is central to global economic and social prosperity.

At UniSA, you'll be a part of a dynamic research environment; our researchers are thought leaders and change makers. We have big ideas, we ask big questions, and we translate our discoveries into solutions that benefit the economy and society.

Our approach to research has always been strongly aligned with industry, and we engage in partnerships with business, industry, and community, who help to shape the questions we ask.

UniSA's research degrees are designed for careers, developed to provide you with research excellence and career relevance. Partnered with industry and end-users through co-designed projects and internships you'll be positioned to advance your career in the industries of today and tomorrow.



"There were two main reasons why I chose to study my PhD at UniSA. The project that was offered was aligned to what I wanted to do post study and my primary supervisor is a fantastic mathematician with similar interests."

Dr Joe O'Leary | UniSA PhD Graduate, Applied Mathematics



Advanced manufacturing

We're creating solutions for modern manufacturing, addressing new climate

change reduction targets, shifting customer needs and quality assurance, along with new approaches for tomorrow's industries.



Community and social services

We work across complex areas, including child

protection, mobility and identity, arts and culture, sociology and social theory, communication, cross-cultural health, Aboriginal engagement, and welfare reform to create solutions and drive systemic change.



Defence

In a fragile world, with global power balances shifting and strategic

tensions rising, we're focused on creating multidisciplinary teams to address Australia's defence capabilities, bringing together experts in engineering, psychology, virtual reality, autonomous systems, industrial design, and more.



Education and training

Education is the spark that ignites new ideas, increases economic outcomes and

creates social inclusion. Our researchers take a holistic approach, combining expertise in education, social and wellbeing policy, digital inclusion, literacy, skills gaps and personalised learning. You can focus on areas like industrial design, sustainable design and interior architecture.



Energy, resources and mining

We know that a strong domestic resources sector

delivers the energy needed for everyday life and is a key driver in national job creation and economy growth. Our focus is on ensuring that our energy, resources and mining sectors remain competitive and sustainable.



Engineering and construction

These industries operate in a continually evolving

landscape, so we apply our expertise in engineering, fabrication, construction management, computer science, environmental science, economics, architecture, mathematics, software development and business intelligence to support major projects, processes and production.



Environment and water

We're focused on cultivating a sustainable relationship with our

planet while balancing human demands. Our researchers are finding solutions to environmental challenges such as climate change by addressing issues such as increasing emissions, resource depletion, waste management, threatened ecosystems and unsustainable consumption.



Food, wine and agriculture

These industries are the backbone of the South

Australian economy. Challenges such as soil degradation, reduced water availability, global health pandemics and export tariffs make it a critical time to find solutions that can protect and support business growth.



Health, medical and care

We know that effective healthcare can save lives and contributes to

population wellbeing more broadly. Our wide range of expertise across allied health, nursing and midwifery, biomedicine, digital health, epidemiology, pharmacy, nutrition and more, creates a multidisciplinary research environment ready to take on current and future healthcare challenges.



Professional and commercial services

We're influencing contemporary workplaces

and work practices through research that embraces digital transformations, customer-centric delivery, sustainability and social good, and re-imagined service models.



Space

We're ready for new frontiers, bringing together expertise in engineering,

information technology, cybersecurity, telecommunications and advanced materials to achieve sector growth and increase Australia's space capabilities and regulation efforts.



Technology, computing and artificial intelligence

Technological advancements and digital disruption are moving at a rapid pace.

Our partnership model is centred on agility, working closely with organisations across the technology, computing and AI sectors to ensure we can predict future trends and provide creative solutions that support future growth.



Tourism, arts and creative industries

As the creative ecosystem evolves, our researchers

are focused on how South Australia can continue to deliver world-class tourism experiences and thriving arts and cultural organisations to achieve long-term business and social impact.

Our Aboriginal Research Strategy

We invite you to join us in advancing Aboriginal research, changing the common research paradigm to focus on research methods, that works ethically and produces benefit for First Nations Peoples, in a way that is self-determining and that values Aboriginal research and knowledges.

Our Aboriginal Research Strategy 2019-25 (ARS) is a fundamental cornerstone of UniSA's Reconciliation Action Plan and is underpinned by a universal commitment set by Universities Australia. Shaped through engagement with Aboriginal Elders and community representatives across South Australia, it's designed to strengthen Aboriginal research and guide our connection with Aboriginal Peoples in a way that is ethical and 'proppa'.

Our research precincts

UniSA is home to more than 30+ research institutes, centres and concentrations. When you apply for a research degree at UniSA, you'll be based in one of our thriving research hubs.

City West

- Centre for Cancer Biology
- Centre for Pharmaceutical Innovation
- Australian Centre for Precision Health (based in SAHMRI)
- Mechanisms in Cell Biology and Disease Research Group
- Health and Biomedical Innovation
- Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science
- Centre for Workplace Excellence
- Centre for Enterprise Dynamics in Global Economies
- Centre for Markets, Values and Inclusion

City East

- Quality Use of Medicine and Pharmacy Research
- Rosemary Bryant AO Research Centre
- Alliance for Research Exercise, Nutrition and Activity
- IIMPACT in Health
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Research and Education Group

Mawson Lakes

- Future Industries Institute
- Australian Research Centre for Interactive and Virtual Environments
- Industrial AI Research Centre
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Resource Management

Magill

- Australian Centre for Child Protection
- Behaviour-Brain-Body Research Centre
- Centre for Research in Educational and Social Inclusion
- Centre for Change and Complexity in Learning
- Safe Relationships and Communities Research Group
- Creative People, Products and Places Research Centre

Bradley Building

Positioned in the heart of Adelaide's BioMed City, it's the leading destination for health research and teaching and home to the Centre for Cancer Biology, the largest concentration of cancer researchers in South Australia.

Ehrenberg-Bass Institute for Marketing Science

The world's largest centre for research into marketing, it's home to more than 60 marketing scientists making discoveries about how brands grow, and how buyers behave.

Enterprise Hub

UniSA's Enterprise Hub is where we connect research, industry and innovation, and is home to our enterprising research degrees. Located on Light Square in the heart of the CBD, it's a place where industry connects with our researchers and students on activities that solve real problems, drive progress, and shape business and community growth in South Australia and beyond.

unisa.edu.au/enterprisehub

Bradley Building



TAKE A VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR

unisa.edu.au/virtualcampustours



City West Campus



City East Campus



Mawson Lakes Campus



Magill Campus



Adelaide. Designed for Life.

UniSA is based in the heart of Adelaide, Australia's most liveable city. Adelaide is a city shaped by stories. The first of these stories were created by the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains. Adelaide is a celebration of diversity and inclusion with a strong sense of community. Its unique layout makes it the world's only true 'city in a park'.

Adelaide is also a global study destination and has been ranked in the top 35 best student cities worldwide by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS, 2023). Adelaide is known for education excellence, balanced lifestyle and the ability to turn career ambitions into a reality through global industry connections, support of startups, and leadership in growth areas such as health, engineering, food and wine, creative and high technology, advanced manufacturing, space, minerals and energy.

Our research degrees

UniSA's project-based research degrees mean that you'll work on practical real-world challenges.

Our research topics and projects have been co-designed with industry, end-users and the community, and have a supervisory panel of researchers and industry experts.

We've made it easy for you – all you need to do is select a project and apply. Or, if you're a real passion seeker and have a project in mind, simply speak to us about developing your own.

Many of our established project-based degrees have fee waivers and scholarships, so start exploring today.

unisa.edu.au/researchdegrees



Siti Fitriani, UniSA PhD Candidate and 2020 3 Minute Thesis (3MT®) People's Choice Winner.

A research degree is an advanced program of study allowing you to investigate a topic of interest. Under the supervision of world-class researchers, you'll learn and apply expert research methodologies to produce new knowledge and provide solutions to key challenges.

Master of Research

Through a Master of Research, you'll develop a deep understanding of your chosen topic through expert analysis.

This program is suitable if you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent professional experience. You don't necessarily need to have experience in conducting independent research, just a natural curiosity and drive for new knowledge.

It can be completed in one to two years full-time, or two to four years part-time. For international student visa holders, the program must be completed within two years of full-time study.

Professional Doctorate

A Professional Doctorate is a rigorous program of advanced coursework study and research designed to meet the needs of industry and professional groups.

This program is suitable if you already have some research experience, either through formal qualifications (an honours or master's degree) or equivalent professional experience.

It can be completed in three to four years full-time or six to eight years part-time. This program is not available for international student visa holders.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

A PhD gives you the opportunity to conduct independent research with a high level of quality and originality. You'll actively contribute to new knowledge and discoveries, producing research that can be put to work.

This program is suitable if you already have some research experience, either through formal qualifications (an honours or master's degree) or equivalent professional experience.

It can be completed in three to four years full-time or six to eight years part-time. For international student visa holders, the program must be completed within four years of full-time study.

PhD by Portfolio of Publications

A PhD by Portfolio is designed to bring together and transform your publications into a cohesive body of work equivalent to a research thesis.

The program is suitable if you have an ongoing record of academic work and research of international standing within the last ten years.

Depending on your work, it can be completed in four years full-time or eight years part-time. This program is not available for international student visa holders.



"I really didn't know what a PHD was, but I showed up started learning really quickly. Every day I learned more, enhancing my research capabilities. Being able to contribute to academia from my Aboriginal lived experience challenges some, interests more, and brings real meaning to my work."

Skye Akbar | UniSA PhD Graduate, Marketing



ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Gain real-world experience through a research degree project partnered with industry and end-users.



EASY TO APPLY

The process is simple: apply for a research degree project with an established topic and supervisory panel, or talk to us about creating your own.



FEE WAIVERS

All Australian students receive a fee waiver, as do international students who receive an offer for a project with an attached scholarship.

The Unstoppables



A-HEAD OF THE GAME



Michael Henry
Physiotherapist & UniSA PhD Candidate
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours)

An eclectic career working as a physiotherapist for Cirque du Soleil, a national cricket team and professional rugby league squad, and then as an international aid worker assisting refugees, means UniSA PhD candidate Michael Henry has seen his fair share of head injuries.

This **UNSTOPPABLE** force is now applying his expertise to groundbreaking research looking into the long-term effects of concussion through the power of virtual reality. The technology can capture how sufferers at varying stages move to protect their head when faced with flying objects coming towards them!

Hear more
from our
unstoppable
people



Scholarships and financial support

We offer a variety of options, so you can be financially supported during your studies. Many of our established project-based research degrees are packaged with a fee waiver and scholarship. So, if you're the successful candidate for that project, there's nothing else you have to do. If you're looking at developing your own topic, your project can be considered for a scholarship through your prospective supervisor.

Fee waivers

If you're an Australian citizen or permanent resident, or a New Zealand citizen, and receive an offer to study a research degree at UniSA, you'll be eligible for a fee-waiver. Your fee-waiver will be included in your offer of admission, and will automatically be applied to your student record when you commence your research degree. International students who receive an offer of admission including a living allowance scholarship will also be eligible for a fee-waiver.

unisa.edu.au/research/fees

International sponsored students

International applicants who hold a living allowance scholarship or tuition sponsorship agreement from an international organisation, university or government agency should contact the International Sponsorship team for advice. They provide specific assistance for sponsored students from application to graduation.

international.research@future.unisa.edu.au

Living allowance scholarship

A living allowance scholarship, also known as a stipend, provides fortnightly payments to help with your expenses while you study.

Once you've commenced your research degree, you may be eligible to apply for other grants and awards. These may include scholarships to provide top-up funding to your living allowance, funding to attend and cover conference travel expenses or other costs associated with your research project.

unisa.edu.au/researchscholarships

Aboriginal scholarships

UniSA's Aboriginal Enterprise Research Scholarship is available to all commencing Australian Aboriginal applicants. You'll receive a scholarship of AUD\$46,653 (indicative 2023) in line with the maximum rate determined by the Commonwealth Government. You'll also receive a fee waiver.



"The perfect career is one where I'm out of my comfort zone, learning new skills, and given the platform to push as far as I can to fulfill my potential. My PhD at UniSA was with a diverse team that fostered a culture of friendship, creativity and teamwork that allowed me to find my passion in translating research to real-world applications."

Dr Stephanie Lamont-Friedrich | UniSA PhD Graduate in Biomaterials, Engineering and Nanomedicine



UniSA Mechanical Engineering Students,
Princess Ladra and John Zhovnayak

How to apply

Step 1: Check your eligibility

Your eligibility for a UniSA research degree will depend on the program you intend to study, along with your prior qualifications and professional experience. See the minimum entry criteria below. Your specific research project may also hold other selection criteria.

Applicants who don't meet the academic criteria detailed below may be eligible for entry to a research degree if they can provide evidence of professional work experience in the field of proposed study and/or relevant quality publications.

PhD

An honours degree at 2A or above, or a relevant master's degree or equivalent.

Master of Research

An honours degree or a bachelor degree with honours, or a relevant bachelor degree (or equivalent) of at least three years with a minimum credit average, or a relevant master's degree or equivalent.

Professional Doctorate

An honours degree at 2A or above, or a relevant master's degree or equivalent.

Applicants must also demonstrate at least five years practice in a relevant field, normally within the last ten years.

PhD by Portfolio of Publications

An ongoing record of academic work and research of international standing within the last ten years.

Applicants should not already hold a PhD qualification.

English language requirements

If you're an international student from a non-English speaking country considering applying for a research degree, you'll also need to demonstrate your capacity to undertake study in English before being accepted into a program.

Through IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Academic, the following applies:

Research degrees based in the UniSA STEM and UniSA Clinical and Health Science Academic Units require a score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each sub-score.

Research degrees based in all other Academic Units, alongside programs in Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health require a score of 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in each sub-score.

Alternatively, we accept corresponding results from an equivalent test such as Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); the University of Cambridge English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Examinations for the Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE) or the Certificate in Advanced English (CAE); the Pearson test; or the appropriate academic English language level delivered by the Centre for English Language at the University of South Australia (CELUSA).

Applicants from countries where English is an official language or who have had recent and relevant experience in an English setting may meet our minimum English entry requirements in a number of alternative ways. Evidence must be provided.

unisa.edu.au/research/admissions

Step 2: Choose a project or design your own

Applying for a UniSA research degree is easy. You can choose from one of our already established research projects linking to industry and real-world challenges, or you can develop your own.

Choose a project

Explore our available projects and see what interests you most.

unisa.edu.au/researchdegrees

Develop your own project

If you're a passion seeker and there's a topic you would really like to unpack, then we can help you design your own research project. A key step is finding a supervisor to oversee your studies.

unisa.edu.au/find-a-supervisor

Step 3: Get prepared

There's a few things you can do to be prepared before you commence your online application. Here's a checklist for you to follow.

Cover letter and selection criteria

Your cover letter should be tailored to the research project you're applying for and specifically address your suitability. This is your chance to tell us what's great about you.

Some projects will have additional selection criteria to address, which can be viewed by previewing the application form.

Your resumé

A resumé is an important tool in the application process. It summarises your key strengths, educational background and qualifications, employment history and other information that will help your application to stand out.

Remember, your resumé combined with your application form will be what the selection panel use to determine your suitability for the research project.

References

You'll need two references. Your referees should be academic or professional staff that know you well enough to support your application. These can include a lecturer, course director, honours supervisor, or employer (who must be able to provide details about your research capabilities).

Once we begin assessing your application, one of your referees will receive an email asking them to complete a referee report, so it's important to check in with all of them prior to submitting.

Please also provide the academic or institutional email address of your referees when completing your application. If we cannot independently verify the email address, we may not be able to use it in our assessment.

unisa.edu.au/resdegree-referee-reports

Transcripts and parchments

For each undergraduate and postgraduate qualification that you have studied, please ensure that you collate these essential mandatory documents/academic records:

- University academic mark sheet or transcript, including details of courses/subjects undertaken and grades achieved. If your original transcript is not in English, you must upload both the original and an official certified English language translation;

- University grading scale (often contained on the back page of your transcript, e.g. A = 85% to 100%);
- University diploma supplement (if applicable); and
- Parchment/academic credential as evidence of conferral or completion date of your degree – this might be printed on your transcript.

English proficiency

- International applicants should include evidence of English language proficiency as detailed on our website.
- Your application cannot be assessed without appropriate evidence, and may not be considered if you have not provided the correct information.
- There is no requirement to send certified copies or original documents when applying, except where you are providing certified translations. If these are needed, we'll send a request.

unisa.edu.au/research-degree-referee-reports

Publications

Outline your research publications in the most appropriate way for your discipline. You can use UniSA's Guide to Referencing if you wish, but please note that this is not required. Please attach a copy at the end of your resumé.

unisa.edu.au/researchdegrees/referencing-guide

Identification

When you apply, you'll be asked to upload a copy of your passport's personal details and signature page. If you don't have a passport, you'll be asked to upload a copy of alternate photo identification and may be asked to provide a copy of evidence of your residency/citizenship status in the future.

Step 4: Apply

Once you are ready to apply, access the application form for the project to which you are applying. You can save the form as you complete it. Ensure you submit your application before the closing date.

Once the closing date of the project has passed your application is assessed and then passed to the supervisory team for further consideration. This can take four to six weeks from the closing date of the project if a significant number of applications is received.

You may be required to attend an interview as part of the application process, so ensure you watch out for any emails.

Step 5: Accept your offer

Domestic students

Your offer may come with some conditions that need to be met before enrolment. Once these conditions have been met, we'll be able to finalise your application.

International students

Once you accept a place in your program, you may need to meet some Conditions of Offer. Once these conditions are met, we'll send you (or your Education Agent) a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) document to enable you to apply for a student visa for entry into Australia. Apply for your student visa as soon as you receive your CoE.

unisa.edu.au/research/enquiry

We're here to help

You can contact our Research Degrees Admissions team with any questions you have.

P +61 8 8302 5880

unisa.edu.au/research/enquiry

The Unstoppables



NASA SUPERSTAR



Dr Cassie Hilditch
Senior Research Associate at NASA Ames Research Center
Doctorate by Research (PHD)

Have you ever dreamt of working with NASA? Well, UniSA psychology grad and expert sleep researcher, Dr Cassie Hilditch, has made that her reality – investigating ways to improve sleep, alertness and performance in flight.

Based in California, this *UNSTOPPABLE* force now walks the same campus as past and future astronauts as they prepare for their missions to the moon.

Hear more
from our
unstoppable
people





University of South Australia

Australia's University of Enterprise

unisa.edu.au

Learn more: unisa.edu.au/researchdegrees



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For information specific to international students, please visit unisa.edu.au/international



Acknowledgement of Country

UniSA respects the Kaurna, Boandik and Barngarla peoples spiritual relationship with their country.

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Artist: Ngupulya Pumani