



**Southern Cross
University**

Your Postgraduate Course Guide

2027



scu.edu.au

CRICOS Provider: 01241G
TEQSA Provider Code: PRV12043
Australian University

Transform your future

When you join Southern Cross University, you'll be studying in the revolutionary and award-winning academic model that's unique in Australia.

Six-week terms, immersive learning experiences, real-world scenarios; our courses are designed for your success, both at uni and beyond. Our postgraduates have some of the highest graduate salaries in the country.*

You'll be connected to an alumni network that spans the globe and join a community of like-minded and passionate people who are building a better future for everyone.

Together, we are Transforming Tomorrow.

Why Southern Cross University?



5-star starting salary and full-time employment for postgraduate study



Top 650 universities globally (2027)



Global top 500 (World University Rankings 2026)

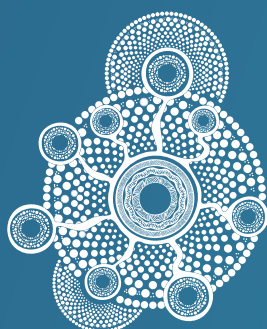


\$111,300 median full-time salary (postgraduate)*

*Graduate Outcomes Survey 2025
qilt.edu.au

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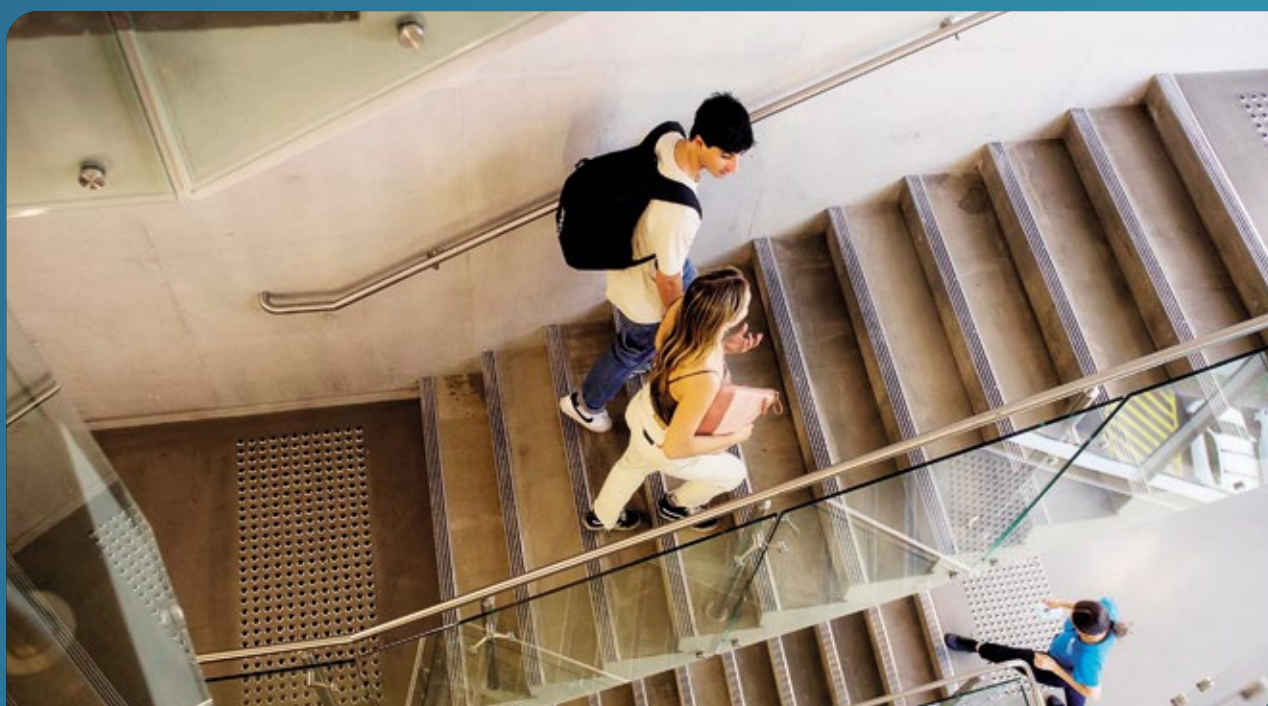
Southern Cross University acknowledges and pays respect to the ancestors, Elders and descendants of the Lands upon which we meet and study.

Acknowledgement of origins

We acknowledge Wadjabal Country as the Country where Southern Cross University originated and grew, and from where it continues to grow. It seeded the growth of our Gumbaynggirr Campus in Coffs Harbour, our Yugambeh Campus in Coolangatta and it planted the seeds to transform the Countries we are on.

Understanding our origins will make each step into the future a more purposeful one, leading all to transform tomorrow.

Artwork by Sheldon Harrington





Why study a postgraduate degree?

A postgraduate degree is your opportunity to take the next step – whether that means advancing your current career, changing direction entirely, or pursuing a passion for research.

At Southern Cross University, our courses are designed with real-world outcomes in mind, combining theory with career-focused projects that reflect the challenges and opportunities of today's industries.

You'll graduate with the confidence, specialist knowledge, networks and hands-on experience employers are looking for.

Our postgraduate alumni have some of the best graduate salaries in the country and better full-time employment prospects than the national average (QILT Graduate Outcomes Survey 2025).

Southern Cross University graduate outcomes

Median salary

\$115,000

\$111,300

Southern Cross University

\$110,000

\$105,000

\$100,000

\$95,000

\$105,000

All Australian Universities

94.5%

Postgraduate overall employment*

QILT Graduate Outcomes Survey 2025 (Postgraduate)*

Postgraduate course levels explained

Coursework

Coursework programs involve attending classes and completing assignments. They aim to build practical and theoretical knowledge in a specific field.

Graduate certificate: Comprises four units and typically takes six months full-time or 1 year part-time.

Graduate diploma: Made up of eight units and is usually completed in one year of full-time study or 2 years part-time.

Masters by Coursework: Consists of sixteen units and typically takes two years of full-time study or 4 years part-time to complete.

Higher Degrees by Research

Research programs involve independent, in-depth study under the supervision of a faculty mentor. They focus on original research, contributing new knowledge or insights to a particular field.

Masters by Thesis: Equips students for careers in research, academia, industry, policy development and professional leadership.

Doctor of Philosophy: Make an original impact in your field with a Doctor of Philosophy. Guided by leading researchers, you'll develop new ideas and innovative solutions to real-world problems.

For more information about Research, refer to page 14.

Find your future

A Southern Cross University postgraduate qualification can accelerate your career, expand your professional network, and equip you with the knowledge, skills and confidence to excel in your field.



On-campus and
online delivery



Part-time or
full-time options



Flexible study
that works for you

Discover our postgraduate study areas



Business



Education



Engineering



Health



Hotel
Management



Information
Technology



Law



Science and
Environment



Social Work and
Community Welfare



Courses	Location	Duration	Starts	Professional accreditation
 Business				
Graduate Certificate in Business Also available in online accelerated mode ^	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney	0.5FT/1PT	March, July, October	
Graduate Certificate in Management	Online	0.5FT/1PT	March, July	
Graduate Certificate in Project Management	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	AIPM
Graduate Certificate in Small Business Management	Online	1PT	March	
Graduate Diploma of Business Also available in online accelerated mode ^	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	
Graduate Diploma of Project Management	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	AIPM
Master of Business Administration Also available in online accelerated mode ^	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Brisbane	2FT/4PT	March, July, October	
Master of Management	Online	1FT/2PT	March, July	
Master of Project Management	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	AIPM
 Education				
Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education Leadership	Gold Coast, online	0.5FT/1PT	March, July	
Graduate Certificate in Education	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Educational Inclusion and Diversity	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Educational Wellbeing	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Diploma of Education (Early Childhood)	Gold Coast, online	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	ACECQA
Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Primary, Secondary)	Gold Coast, online*	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	TRBWA
Master of Education	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Teaching (Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary)	Gold Coast, online	2FT/4PT	March, July, October	NESA, ACECQA
 Engineering				
Master of Construction Practice	Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, online	2FT/4PT	March, October	AIB
Master of Engineering Management	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Engineering	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney	2FT/4PT	March, October	EA

^ Check online.scu.edu.au for online accelerated course durations and intakes.

*Online students may be required to attend on-campus workshops during some of the units.

Courses	Location	Duration	Starts	Professional accreditation
 Health				
Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education and Management	Online	8mths PT	March	ADEA
Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Leadership	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Mental Health	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing	Online accelerated	8 mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Neurodiversity	Online	1PT	March	
Graduate Diploma of Mental Health	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Nursing	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	ACMHN
Master of Healthcare Leadership	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Mental Health	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Mental Health Nursing	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	ACMHN
Master of Nursing	Gold Coast, Northern Rivers, Coffs Harbour	2FT	January, August	ANMAC
Master of Osteopathic Medicine	Northern Rivers, Gold Coast	1.5FT/3PT	March	AOAC
Master of Occupational Therapy^	Gold Coast	2FT	October	
Graduate Certificate in Lifestyle Medicine	Online	1PT	March	
Master of Lifestyle Medicine	Online	2PT	March	ASLM
Master of Integrative Medicine	Online	2PT	March	
Master of Naturopathic Medicine	Gold Coast	2FT/4PT	March, July	AIHM, ANTA, ANPA, ATMS, CMA, ARONAH, NHAA
Master of Professional Psychology	Online	1FT/2PT	March	APAC
 Hotel Management				
Graduate Certificate of Business in Global Hotel Leadership	Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, online	0.5FT/1PT	March, July, October	
Graduate Diploma of Business in Global Hotel Leadership	Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, online	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	
Master of Business in Global Hotel Leadership	Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, online	2FT/4PT	March, July, October	

^Pending University approval

Courses	Location	Duration	Starts	Professional accreditation
 Information Technology				
Graduate Certificate in Information Technology	Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, online	0.5FT/1PT	March	
Graduate Diploma of Information Technology	Gold Coast, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, online	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	
Master of Information Technology	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, online	2FT/4PT	March, July, October	ACS
 Law				
Graduate Certificate in Business Law	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Business Law	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
 Science and Environment				
Graduate Certificate in Circular Economy	Online	1PT	March	
 Social Work and Community Services				
Graduate Certificate in Social Sciences for Social Work	Gold Coast, online	0.5FT/1PT	July, October	
Master of Social Work (Professional Qualifying)	Gold Coast, online*	2FT/4PT	March, October	AASW

* The online study mode includes compulsory on-campus residentials. See webpage for details.

Key to professional bodies:

AASW Australian Association of Social Workers	APAC Australian Psychology Accreditation Council
ACECQA Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	ATMS Australian Traditional Medicine Society
ACS Australian Computer Society	CMA Complementary Medicines Australia
ADEA Australian Diabetes Educators Association	CPA Australia
AIHM Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine	CA ANZ Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
AIB Australian Institute of Building	EA Engineers Australia
AIPM Australian Institute of Project Management	NESA NSW Education Standards Authority
ANPA Australian Naturopathic Practitioners Association	NHAA Naturopaths & Herbalists Association of Australia
ANTA Australian Natural Therapists Association	NMBA Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
AOAC Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council	TRBWA Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia

Please note some courses may be at a pending stage in their accreditation. Check the web page for up-to-date information.

^ Check online.scu.edu.au for online accelerated course durations and intakes

*Online students may be required to attend on-campus workshops during some of the units.



Funding your studies

Most postgraduate degrees are eligible for FEE-HELP. This is a form of government loan that covers the cost of your studies. You pay this loan back through the tax system once your income reaches a certain threshold. Some postgraduate degrees are also Commonwealth-Supported. This means a portion of your tuition fees is paid by the Commonwealth Government.

Student Services and Amenities Fee

Also known as SSAF, the Student Services and Amenities Fee is used to provide important services and amenities to students both on and off campus. The SSAF is calculated per unit, based on the unit's credit point value. The maximum SSAF fee in 2026 was \$373. Eligible students have the option of deferring this fee through the SA-HELP loan scheme.

Other study costs

Your costs could also include computer equipment and software, stationery, field trips, uniforms or other course-specific expenses such as travel for practicums, internships or industry experience.

Books and supplies

Some courses will require you to buy textbooks. The cost of textbooks varies greatly from unit-to-unit. Second-hand textbooks are sometimes available.

In other courses, you may not have to buy textbooks. Check out our 'Zero Textbook Cost' initiative and see if your course is listed there.



For details visit
[scu.edu.au/library/teaching/
zero-textbook-cost/](https://scu.edu.au/library/teaching/zero-textbook-cost/)



For details visit
studyassist.gov.au



For details visit
scu.edu.au/fees

Scholarships

At Southern Cross University, we believe in fostering the next generation of brilliant minds and bold leaders to reach their full potential.

Scholarships can change your university experience. They provide additional financial support to make studying more accessible, but they also represent something more powerful: an endorsement of your potential. Whether funded by the University or a private donor, a scholarship is an investment in your future by people who believe in your ability to make a difference.

For students pursuing research, scholarships can also open doors to opportunities beyond financial assistance - providing access to expert supervision, mentorship from leading academics, and the chance to be part of a collaborative research community tackling real-world challenges.

Scholarships cover many different student cohorts



Academic merit and high achievers



Sporting or athletic excellence



Community service or leadership



Indigenous students



Regional or remote students



Gender and diversity



Discipline-specific



Research

Featured scholarships

Bonnie Boezeman AO Leadership in Nursing Scholarship \$34,500

Awarded to a registered female nurse to undertake a Master of Healthcare Leadership with Southern Cross University.

The Lord's Taverners Seawind Catamaran Indigenous Scholarships \$15,000

Supports an Australian Indigenous student who is a resident in northern New South Wales and is overcoming disadvantaged backgrounds to succeed at university study.

Osiecki Family Foundation Clinical Placement Scholarship \$5,000

Supports Master of Naturopathic Medicine students to undertake specialised, community-based, regional or remote clinical placements.

Success in Higher Education for Kinship-Care Youth \$34,315 per annum

The Graduate Researcher will explore the complex interplay of barriers and facilitators influencing higher education access for Australia's largest cohort of young people in out-of-home care, kin-care experienced young people.

Integrated Pest Management for Control of Varroa in Pacific Island Countries and Australia \$34,315 per annum

The Graduate Researcher will evaluate current Varroa mite prevalence, impacts and management practices in Australia and Pacific Island countries and develop and test the efficacy of novel organic and biotechnical Varroa control strategies.

Australia-Singapore Joint Project on Arena of Security 1.5 year's stipend scholarship of \$34,315

A split-site PhD including 1.5 years in Australia and two years in Singapore, joining the research initiative, *Arena of Security: Auto Benchmarking and Explainable Security Analytics via the Software Genome Project*.

380+ scholarships on offer
up to **\$50,000**



Explore more postgraduate coursework scholarships
scu.edu.au/scholarships



Explore more HDR scholarships
scu.edu.au/graduate-school/scholarships



Supporting our healthcare leaders



As the Founder of Australia's first virtual, nurse-led mental health clinic, Amanda Butt is shaping the future of care through innovation and leadership. "I hope to strengthen my capacity to lead at scale and influence system-level change across mental health and primary care," she said.

Amanda Butt, Master of Healthcare Leadership student and Bonnie Boezeman AO Leadership in Nursing Scholarship recipient.



Supporting your studies

No student is an island. No matter the extra help you need – we've got you covered.



Careers and
employability
service



Equity and
inclusion services



Mentor
programs



Academic
skills help



Counselling
services



Student
advocacy



Indigenous
student support



Wifi and
tech services

The Southern Cross Postgraduate Association (SCPA) is your dedicated support network for postgraduate students at Southern Cross University.

Academic advisers

All postgraduate coursework students have access to a First Year Adviser, who can provide tailored advice and support for the first eight units of your degree. Your First Year Adviser understands the unique challenges of balancing postgraduate study and other commitments. They can connect you with the University's support services and help you navigate University systems.



For details visit
scu.edu.au/fya



Careers and employability team

Give your career the head start it deserves and make contact with the Careers and Employability team from the first year of your studies through CareerHub and the online CareerSuccess resources.

The Careers team can help you with:

- Career counselling
- Choosing the right degree
- Finding part-time work on CareerHub
- Assistance with job applications
- Mock interviews
- Networking
- Help with targeting graduate employers.



For details visit
scu.edu.au/careers

Inclusion Support

If you are a student with disability, we provide a range of support services to assist you to be successful in your studies. These services may include note-taking assistance or digital note-takers, access to alternative format materials, special software or other services as needed.

If you are vision or hearing impaired or have a significant physical disability which requires a high level of support, please contact Inclusion Support as early as possible (at least two weeks before your teaching period begins).

Indigenous Australian Student Services (IASS)

IASS provides information, advice and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students relating to admission, acceptance of offers, enrolment through self-management, fees, examinations and grades, accommodation, tutorial assistance, Abstudy, access to learning resources, counselling and other support services. We have IASS staff located at each campus – Northern Rivers, Coffs Harbour and the Gold Coast.



More details at:
scu.edu.au/iass



From patient to practitioner

**Scott Painter, Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology
Practice Manager and Head Accredited Exercise Physiologist, Headway ABI Australia**

Southern Cross University graduate and Accredited Exercise Physiologist Scott Painter has turned personal adversity into a powerful career helping others recover from neurological injury. After surviving a brain injury and multiple strokes as a teenager, Scott spent more than a year relearning how to walk, talk and live independently. Inspired by his rehabilitation journey, he pursued Exercise Physiology at Southern Cross University. “The support I received from Southern Cross was incredible, second-to-none. I don’t think I could’ve gone anywhere else,” says Scott. Today, Scott works as a practitioner in neurological rehabilitation, using both his lived experience and education to support others on their recovery journey.

Your experience could count towards a degree

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is when your studies and/or work experience are recognised and counted towards your degree as credit. Acknowledging your prior learning as credit can:

- Save you time by reducing the number of units you need to complete
- Save you money
- Bring you closer to your career goals sooner!

There are three main types of prior learning that can be considered for credit:

Formal learning: Learning that takes place through a structured program that leads to the full or partial achievement of an officially accredited qualification. For example: a completed diploma from TAFE or a RTO; study undertaken at another university.

Informal learning: Learning gained through work, social, family, hobby or leisure activities and experiences. Unlike formal or non-formal learning, informal learning is not organised or externally structured in terms of objectives, time or learning support.

Non-formal learning: Learning that takes place through a structured program but does not lead to an officially accredited qualification. For example: learning and training activities undertaken in the workplace.



For details visit
scu.edu.au/advancedstanding



Crisis response to global impact

Neale Sutton, Master of Business Administration
Founder, Humanihut Australia

Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate and humanitarian entrepreneur Neale Sutton is the founder of Humanihut Australia, a globally recognised emergency shelter and infrastructure solution delivering dignity to people in crisis. Inspired by his experiences in military and humanitarian deployments, Neale set out to create a more humane response to disaster and displacement. He completed his MBA online with Southern Cross University while working overseas, gaining practical business skills he continues to rely on today. "There was an international marketing element that was guiding me in business even then," Neale says. He credits his MBA with giving him the strategic insight and confidence to scale Humanihut globally.

Supporting your success

The Southern Cross Model - a better way to learn

Our academic model is designed with student success in mind. Six-week terms and immersive learning experiences create confidence and momentum with flexibility in your study schedule.

91%

Student success rate
2025 unit success rates



Learn more

scu.edu.au/southern-cross-model



Six-week Terms

Terms are six-weeks long with a break between each one. You'll typically study across four Terms a year.



Increased success

Since the Southern Cross Model was implemented, our students have achieved greater success in their studies than ever before.



Immersive learning

Focus on just two units each Term for an immersive study experience. Learn more, quickly, in workshops and tutorials.



Greater completion

More students complete their units successfully in the Southern Cross Model. It's a better, and more enjoyable, way to learn.



You're in control

The Southern Cross Model works with you in juggling all your other commitments – family, work, sport, friends. It's university for the 21st century.



"It's a really flexible study model. I just love it. I can balance study, work, family life and running my own business. Studying just two units at a time gives me the opportunity to properly understand what I am learning."

Anup, Master of Information Technology student

Research with global impact

Southern Cross University researchers are tackling some of the world's most significant challenges from protecting ecosystems and developing sustainable food systems to improving health outcomes, strengthening communities and advancing social justice.

Explore some of the global challenges our researchers are tackling, through work grounded in the regions we serve.



Protecting our oceans in a changing climate

Marine Cloud Brightening

Can science help protect coral reefs from rising ocean temperatures?

Southern Cross University researchers are contributing to international efforts exploring marine cloud brightening, a climate intervention that aims to increase cloud reflectivity and reduce heat stress on vulnerable reef ecosystems.

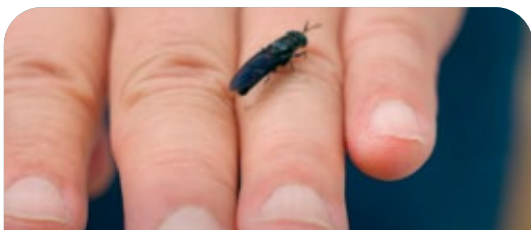


Improving health outcomes through community-led research

SISTAQUIT

SISTAQUIT is a nationally-recognised research program supporting smoking and vaping cessation among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women during pregnancy.

Developed in partnership with communities, health services and researchers, the program combines cultural knowledge with evidence-based healthcare approaches.



Turning waste into valuable resources

Black Soldier Fly Research

What if yesterday's waste could become tomorrow's resource?

Our researchers are investigating how black soldier flies can transform organic waste into valuable products for agriculture and industry. The research has applications across sustainable food production, circular economies and renewable materials, demonstrating how biological systems can contribute to a more sustainable future.



Giving children a stronger voice in family law

Family Law Research

How can legal systems better support children experiencing family separation and family violence?

Southern Cross University researchers are examining how children's voices can be more effectively heard and considered within family law processes. The work is helping inform policy and legal practice, with relevance extending beyond Australia to international discussions on children's rights.

Research for a better future

Driven to make a difference in your field? A Higher Degree by Research through the Graduate School gives you the opportunity to explore big ideas across areas like business, education, engineering, health, IT, Indigenous knowledge, law, and environmental science.

You'll be backed by experienced researchers and a strong support network offering guidance, resources, funding support, and pathways to publication.

Our supervisors are at the forefront of global challenges – from reef restoration to health and food security – helping you turn your research into real-world impact.



"I decided to study a PhD because I wanted to positively impact nursing practice and policy. We see the things that need to be changed firsthand when we're working. Having that knowledge enabled me to go in and do work that will have long-term impactful changes to healthcare."

Erin Davis
Graduate researcher (Faculty of Health)



Graduate School

We offer a diverse range of Higher Degree Research courses across a range of disciplines.

Masters by Thesis

Equips students for careers in research, academia, industry, policy development and professional leadership.

Duration: 2 years full-time

Doctor of Philosophy

Make an original impact in your field with a Doctor of Philosophy. Guided by leading researchers, you'll develop new ideas and innovative solutions to real-world problems.

Duration: 3.5 years full-time



Find a supervisor

[scu.edu.au/graduate-school/
find-a-supervisor/](https://scu.edu.au/graduate-school/find-a-supervisor/)



Learn More

[scu.edu.au/graduate-school/
higher-degrees-research/](https://scu.edu.au/graduate-school/higher-degrees-research/)

Learn from leading experts

At Southern Cross University, you'll be supported by experts whose research is helping address some of society's most pressing challenges – from improving healthcare outcomes and strengthening education to advancing agricultural innovation, understanding human history and exploring the factors that shape how we live, learn and thrive.

Meet some of our supervisors contributing to research of regional, national and global significance.



Professor Christina Aggar

Improving care for older people and their families

Professor Christina Aggar's research focuses on improving care for older people, particularly those living with dementia and experiencing delirium. Her work brings together clinicians, carers and researchers to develop practical tools that improve patient experiences and support better healthcare outcomes for individuals and families.



Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau

Unlocking stories from the past

Using advanced scientific and archaeological techniques, Professor Renaud Joannes-Boyau investigates questions about human history, health and environmental change. His internationally recognised research has revealed new insights into ancient populations and the conditions that shaped human lives, helping us better understand our past and future.



Professor Tobias Kretschmar

Building the future of agriculture

Professor Tobias Kretschmar's research focuses on plant science, genetics and crop innovation. His work contributes to the development of more productive, resilient and sustainable agricultural systems, addressing global challenges relating to food security, climate adaptation and future farming practices.



Dr Jennifer Harrison

Understanding financial wellbeing

Dr Jennifer Harrison explores how people make financial decisions and the behaviours that influence financial wellbeing. Her research examines consumer habits, financial literacy and decision-making, helping inform policy, education and practical approaches that support individuals in navigating increasingly complex financial environments.



Professor Damien Maher

Understanding water, carbon and environmental change

Professor Damien Maher's research examines the movement of water, carbon and nutrients through terrestrial, aquatic and coastal ecosystems. His work explores the processes that influence ecosystem health, greenhouse gas emissions and environmental change, supporting evidence-based solutions for sustainability and natural resource management.



Professor Maria Constantinou

Improving movement, health and performance

Professor Maria Constantinou's research examines physical activity, healthy lifestyles and musculoskeletal health, exploring the factors that influence movement, function and wellbeing. Her work focuses on the prevention and management of sports injuries and musculoskeletal conditions across people and athletes of all ages.



Turning the tide on reef restoration

Dr Chelsea Waters

Doctor of Philosophy

Director, Institute for Marine Research

Dr Chelsea Waters is part of a new generation of researchers transforming reef restoration from theory into action. But her impact extends far beyond the lab.

In 2019, Chelsea co-founded the Institute for Marine Research (IMR), a non-profit dedicated to protecting coastal ecosystems in the Philippines. It was there she recognised a critical gap — the need to build local research capacity and apply science in ways that communities could scale and sustain. That realisation led her to pursue a PhD at Southern Cross University.

Working alongside leading coral scientists, Chelsea focused on improving larval restoration techniques for damaged reefs, developing practical methods to increase coral survival and recovery. Crucially, her research was always grounded in real-world application.

“Pursuing a PhD with Professor Peter Harrison gave me the opportunity to develop this expertise; combining rigorous scientific training with applied restoration approaches that directly inform and strengthen the work of IMR and other community-based initiatives,” she said.

Drawing on her experience across the Indo-Pacific, Chelsea ensured her research could translate beyond the Great Barrier Reef. By the end of her PhD, she had developed a simple tool to help identify optimal restoration sites — a tangible outcome with immediate global relevance.



Designing healthier futures

Lisa Couzens, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) candidate
Occupational therapist

For Southern Cross University PhD candidate Lisa Couzens, sitting still is far from passive. An experienced occupational therapist, Lisa is exploring the hidden health impacts of prolonged sitting through her doctoral research. Her PhD investigates how sustained sitting affects the body, particularly for people with high seating needs, examining pressure injury risk and the often-overlooked microclimate between the body and wheelchair cushions. “Research gives us the evidence to design safer, more comfortable solutions for everyday life,” Lisa says. Through Southern Cross University, Lisa is combining clinical insight with research to improve health outcomes, inform best practice, and shape more inclusive approaches to movement and care.

Southern Cross University Health Clinics

On-campus clinics provide safe and supervised environments for health students to gain clinical experience. Student clinics run throughout the year.



Learn more:
scu.edu.au/health-clinic



Our campuses

Southern Cross University is a multi-campus university with a strong east-coast footprint, including main campuses at the Gold Coast, the Northern Rivers, and Coffs Harbour.

Our campuses are located in regions known for their diversity, offering study environments that span vibrant cities, industry-connected communities, coastal lifestyles and unique natural settings.

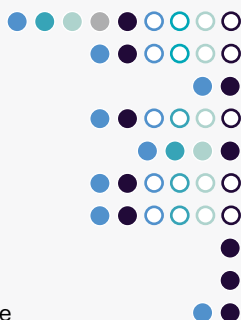
Alongside its regional presence, Southern Cross Uni offers selected courses nationally. This includes the University's Hotel School, with campuses in the Gold Coast, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane, as well as metro campuses in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth.

- Main campus
- Metro campus



Study areas by location

Pathway programs
Business
Education
Engineering
Health
Hotel Management
Information Technology
Law
Science
Social Work and Community Welfare



Legend

Main Campuses

- Gold Coast
- Northern Rivers
- Coffs Harbour
- Online
- National Marine Science Centre

Metro Campuses

- Brisbane
- Sydney
- Melbourne
- Perth

This is an overview of disciplines on offer by location. Refer to specific course information to confirm the location of your chosen study path.



For more information
scu.edu.au/postgraduate

Gold Coast

Our Gold Coast campus is located at Coolangatta, just 400 metres from North Kirra Beach, and adjacent to the Gold Coast Airport. Many vantage points offer stunning views of the Pacific Ocean.

The campus is spread across three contemporary buildings that house innovative learning spaces, health science laboratories, computer labs,

student lounges, the University's Digital Enterprise Lab and an on-campus Health Clinic.



Take a virtual tour of our Gold Coast campus



Close proximity to beach and airport



On-campus Health Clinic and gym



Digital Enterprise Lab



Health science and engineering labs

Northern Rivers

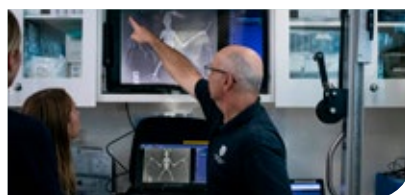
Our foundation campus is located at Lismore in the heart of the Northern Rivers. Set on acres of lush rainforest that includes a koala hospital, the Northern Rivers campus is within easy reach of both national parks and the beautiful beaches of Ballina and Byron Bay.

It is also home to a multi-million-dollar veterinary sciences precinct, state-of-the-art engineering and environmental science facilities, specialist health labs

and simulated hospital wards, a Learning Centre and library complex, heated pool and gym, on-campus accommodation and a Health Clinic.



Take a virtual tour of our Lismore campus



On-campus Health Clinic



Pool and gym



On-campus accommodation



Purpose-built facilities

Coffs Harbour

Our Coffs Harbour campus is located at the heart of an education and innovation hub. Coffs Harbour boasts a relaxed coastal lifestyle but this growing city also hosts international sporting events and regional festivals thanks to outstanding facilities and a major regional airport.

A multi-million-dollar Health Sciences Building on campus features a biomechanics running track and high-tech simulation teaching laboratories.

The campus also has a fitness centre, on-campus accommodation, sporting fields and is close to beautiful beaches and national parks. The University's world-renowned National Marine Science Centre is located in Charlesworth Bay on the north side of the city.



Take a virtual tour of our Coffs Harbour campus



National Marine Science Centre



Health Sciences precinct



Coastal lifestyle

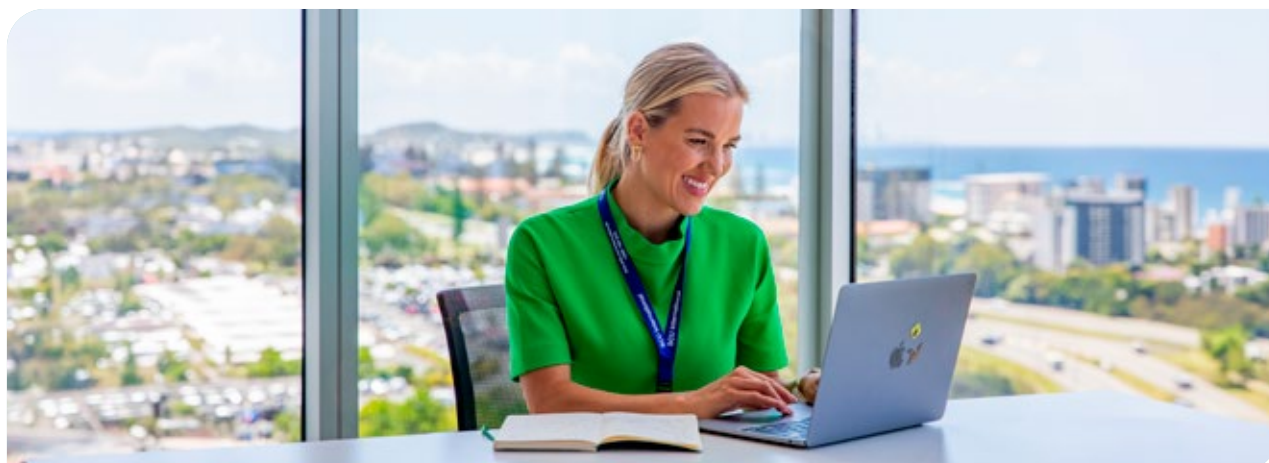


On-campus accommodation

Study online

Geography is no longer a barrier to an excellent university education. Online learning in the Southern Cross Model is a dynamic and interactive environment, where you can access multimedia course content and interact with your peers and tutors, getting feedback as you go.

As an online student you have access to all campus facilities including libraries and study spaces as well as campus activities and clubs. It's a quality Southern Cross University education with the convenience of studying where, and when, it suits you best.



Learn anywhere, anytime



Connected student community



Access campus facilities



Great learning support

Metro locations



Sydney

Sydney campus offers students a vibrant study environment in the heart of Sydney's Central Business District. Positioned near the iconic Sydney Harbour and major transport connections, the campus is surrounded by Australia's leading corporate businesses and cultural landmarks that define the city's vibrant energy.



Melbourne

Melbourne campus is located in the heart of the city's thriving Central Business District.

The campus is surrounded by the city's key business, retail and cultural precincts.



Perth

Perth campus is located in the Central Business District of East Perth.

It's not far from Kings Park, one of the largest inner-city parks in the world, and the Swan River, where students can take a ferry to other locations around the city.



Brisbane

Brisbane campus is located in the heart of the city's Central Business District.

The campus is just a short walk from the Brisbane River, the City Botanic Gardens and Queen Street Mall, giving students plenty of opportunities to enjoy the city's vibrant lifestyle between classes.



Learn More
scu.edu.au/experience/explore-our-campuses/metro-locations/

Student life

UniLife

Our UniLife program aims to encourage both your academic success and support your wellbeing. Students can get involved in social sports clubs and societies, and University-wide events such as the University Student Awards, snow tour, learn-to-surf camps, beach and water safety programs, and other national competitions.



For more on UniLife, visit
scu.edu.au/unilife





The skills to lead at a higher level

Lynda Walsh
NSW/ACT State Manager at the Reject Shop,
Master of Business Administration graduate

For Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate Lynda Walsh, completing a Masters degree has opened up opportunities to further her career.

Recently appointed as NSW/ACT State Manager at The Reject Shop, Lynda has moved from managing 35 stores as an Area Manager to 107 stores.

"This degree has equipped me to lead at a higher level, with a focus on inspiring and driving teams towards excellence. It reshaped how I think strategically and how I can have more influence in my future roles," she said.



How to apply

Step 1. Choose a course

Step 2. Check the course requirements on scu.edu.au

Step 3. Talk to a student advisor if you need more information on 1800 626 481

Step 4. Apply!

To apply as a non-school leaver (left school more than two years ago, with work experience or transferring from another uni), apply directly to the University.



For postgraduate coursework
scu.edu.au/applytostudy



For Higher Degrees by
Research (HDR)
scu.edu.au/graduateschool

Apply directly to Southern Cross University

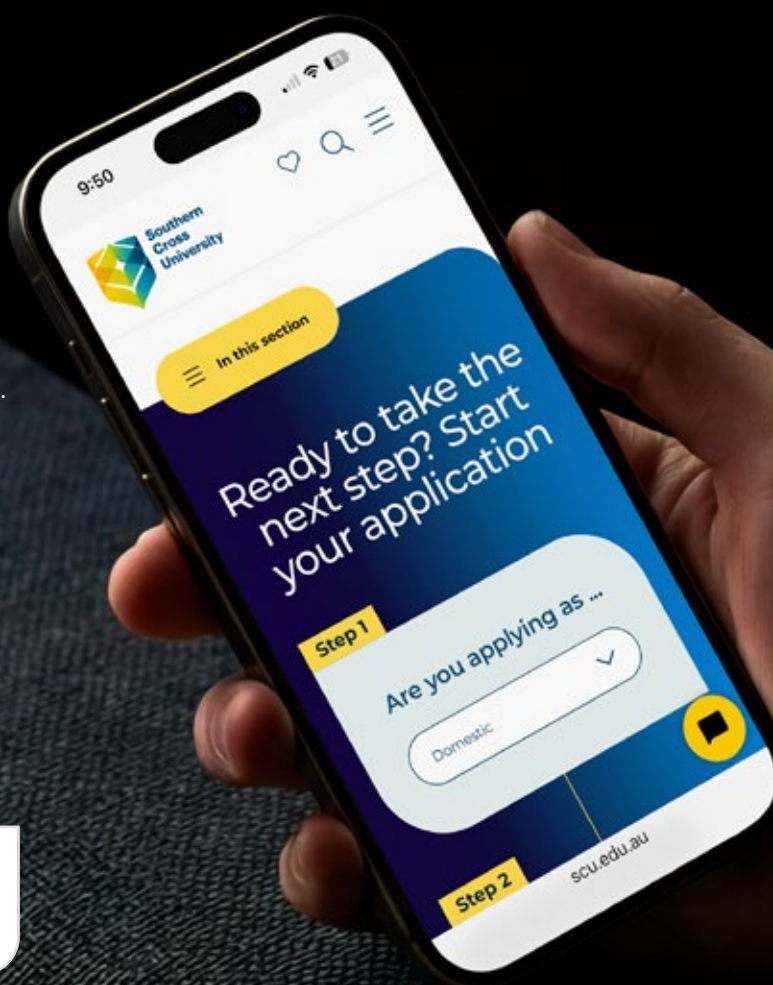
Applying directly is simple and can be completed online. Once you have chosen your preferred course, simply click on the Apply button on the course page. This will show a series of choices about where the course is offered and when it starts. Some courses offer two or three start dates a year, these are called 'intakes'.

Documents can be uploaded directly through the application portal, you'll be prompted at each relevant stage for these.

Applying is free.



For more information
scu.edu.au/study/how-to-apply



Register for
Open Day 2026



Coffs Harbour
Northern Rivers
Gold Coast

Sunday, 9 August 2026
Sunday, 16 August 2026
Sunday, 23 August 2026