



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

# Research excellence

sydney.edu.au/research



We are one of the world's top research universities and a member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight network and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities. We also partner with others that excel in research, including Harvard, Stanford, Utrecht University, Tsinghua University and the University of Hong Kong.

Our research is driven by the big picture and we provide a hub for industry, government and community groups to collaborate with us and connect with our researchers and students. The development of major innovations such as the black box recorder, pacemaker, Wifi and the bionic ear started here.

We are also home to 90 world-renowned multidisciplinary research and teaching centres that are strongly positioned to tackle some of the world's biggest challenges,

such as health, climate change and food security. Our multidisciplinary research centres include:

- the Charles Perkins Centre dedicated to easing the global burden of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and related conditions
- the Brain and Mind Centre, a leader in research, education and treatment of a range of diseases from autism to schizophrenia, depression, dementia and Parkinson's disease

- the Australian Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology that is transforming Sydney into a global hub for discovering and harnessing new science at the nanoscale.

We invest in research that changes the way we think about the world. Find out more about our research:

[sydney.edu.au/research](http://sydney.edu.au/research)

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**In the top 50 of the world's best research universities**  
(QS World University Rankings 2018)

**All our research is ranked at world standard or above**  
(Excellence in Research for Australia report, 2015)

**We are tripling our investment in research**  
(University of Sydney Strategic Plan, 2016-20 )

# POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH HOW TO APPLY

These steps will guide you in applying for a research master's or PhD degree at the University of Sydney.

## Step 1 Choose a degree

Start by reviewing the types of degrees we offer and check the eligibility requirements for the research degree you want to apply for. We encourage you to apply well ahead of time; even before completion of your current qualifying degree. In these circumstances, referee reports are essential as part of the application for admission.

- [sydney.edu.au/study/pg-research](https://sydney.edu.au/study/pg-research)

## Step 2 Develop your research ideas

You'll need to develop an initial research proposal. While this initial proposal will probably not fully capture all the details of your final project, it is important to think seriously about it, clearly explaining your ideas about your research. This should not be a generic or vague proposal but should actively seek to show why your research is noteworthy and how it aligns with your proposed supervisor's own work.

## Step 3 Find a supervisor

You'll need a staff member who has agreed to mentor you for the duration of your research. Use the Research Supervisor Connect database to search for current supervisors and projects.

- [sydney.edu.au/research/opportunities](https://sydney.edu.au/research/opportunities)

Use the 'Contact research expert' button to contact a potential supervisor. To support your enquiry, describe your academic background and research experience, the topic you'd like to research, and how your

proposed research project aligns with their background. Include your resumé, academic transcript for all completed degrees and an initial research proposal (up to 2000 words). For Business, Law and Medicine, you will need to submit an Expression of Interest form directly to the School.

For guidelines on preparing your research proposal for admission, refer to our website:

- [sydney.edu.au/study/pg-research](https://sydney.edu.au/study/pg-research)

## Step 4 Submitting your application

When you have secured a supervisor, you will discuss and refine the project together. Once your research proposal is finalised, you can submit a direct online application to the University of Sydney through our website.

- [sydney.edu.au/courses](https://sydney.edu.au/courses)

You will need to include the following documents:

- academic transcripts
- English language proficiency, where required
- resumé
- referee reports
- final research proposal
- evidence of academic staff member's agreement to supervise you

- portfolio of work or audition may be required for certain courses (refer to [sydney.edu.au/courses](https://sydney.edu.au/courses)).

You can save and return to your application, upload documentation, and formally accept an offer if your application is successful.

Most faculties accept applications all year round and offer four research periods each year when you can start your study with us.

For key research dates, visit:

- [sydney.edu.au/study/admissions-timeline](https://sydney.edu.au/study/admissions-timeline)

You can also engage the services of a University agent (representative) to help with your application.

- [sydney.edu.au/study/overseas-agents](https://sydney.edu.au/study/overseas-agents)