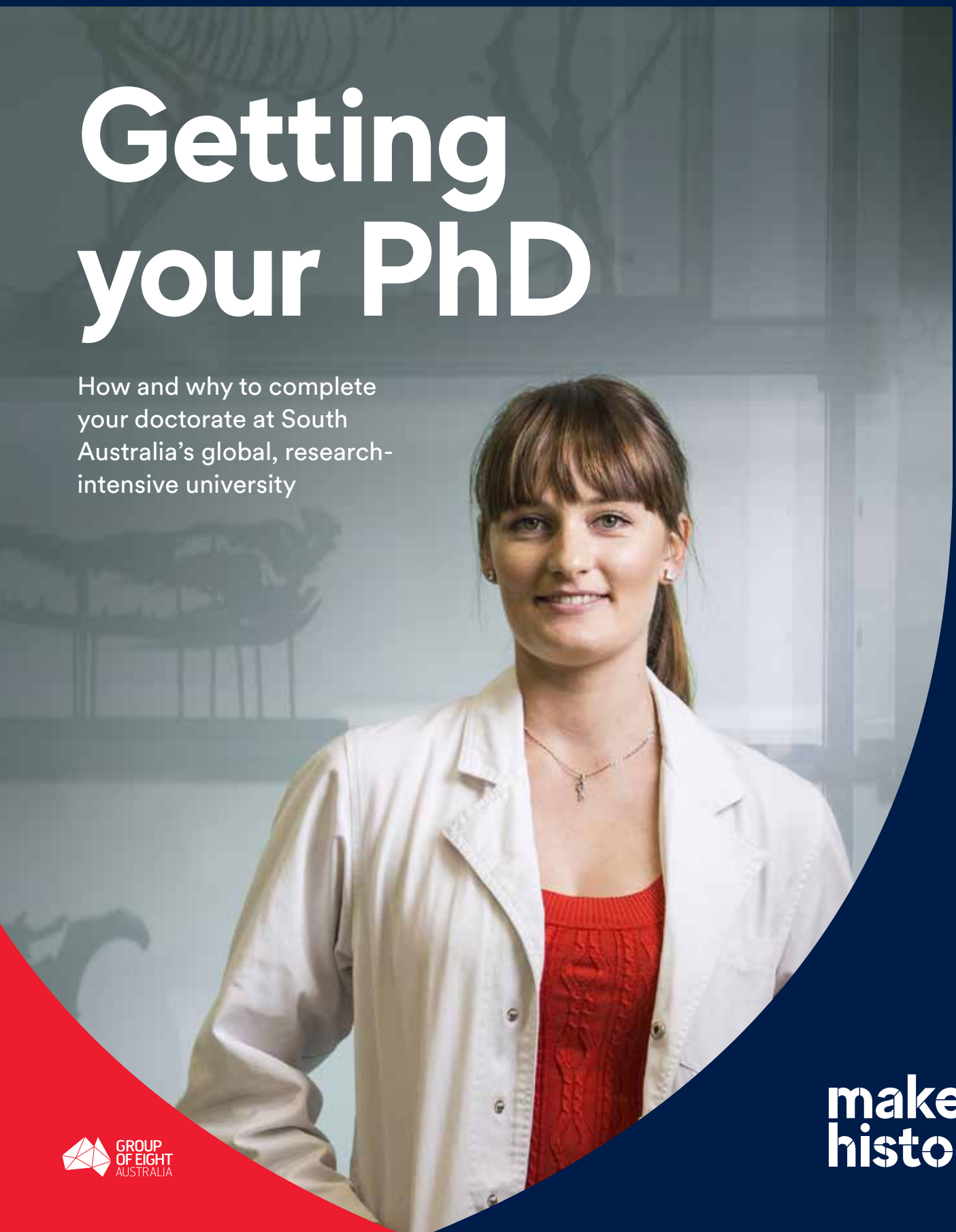
THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

Getting your PhD

How and why to complete your doctorate at South Australia's global, research-intensive university



GROUP OF EIGHT AUSTRALIA

make history.

From the Vice-Chancellor

At the University of Adelaide, we have a long and proud history of research excellence. It is a privilege to be globally recognised for knowledge creation and constantly progressing society.

Ours is an exceptionally stimulating environment for research students: a culture that promotes excellence, nurtures ingenuity, and catalyses success. Here you'll work with highly accomplished academics, each determined to make history in their own right, and help you make your own.

Every day, we strive to grow and strengthen our research community; to facilitate discovery, empower new thought leaders, provide connection to industry, and enable cutting-edge innovation. We are committed to shaping, and protecting, a better world.

Whatever global challenges should arise in the future, the University of Adelaide is determined to understand them—and empower a new generation to tackle them.

We invite you to be part of it.

Professor Peter Høj, AC
Vice-Chancellor and President

From the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

A PhD is a once-in-a-lifetime commitment, best obtained from a highly networked community of stand-out researchers who are resourced to provide you with constructive support. The University of Adelaide offers this and more.

We are ranked among the world's top 100 universities*, associated with five Nobel laureates, have produced over 110 Rhodes Scholars and 150 Fulbright Scholars, and our research talent is internationally recognised.

We're a member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight, comprised of the nation's leading research-intensive universities. Our industry collaborations provide students with real opportunities and relationships in their field.

Our world-class researchers move toward novel solutions daily—in areas such as health, sustainability, artificial intelligence, science, agriculture, defence, engineering, information capability, and so much more.

We look forward to welcoming you to our community and nurturing your unique talent.

Anton Middelberg
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
University of Adelaide

** Times Higher Education, 2023.*

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THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

Dive deep. Climb high.

Every day, a PhD candidate discovers something new. It's a vital, and inspiring, role in human society; creating knowledge, and making the unknown known. There are so many reasons to start your greatest adventure.

Follow your passion

Is there a subject you could talk about all day long? A question that puzzles you day and night? Maybe you simply find profound joy in science and discovery? A PhD gives you the chance to fully immerse yourself in what interests you the most.

Carve your own niche

A PhD is all about creating completely novel knowledge. Through it, you will discover new information and answer previously unanswered questions. No matter how niche the subject area, a PhD is your pathway to becoming a one-of-a-kind world expert.

Enhance your capabilities

You'll develop a suite of highly valuable and transferable skills: research and analysis, organised, critical and lateral thinking; problem-solving; discipline; resilience; communication; presentation; project management; teamwork; and technical writing, to name a few.

Expand your range of experience

PhDs present all sorts of exciting personal and professional opportunities, from conferences and field trips with local and international travel to exclusive collaborations. It's a fantastic way to broaden your horizons.

Gain gravitas

Having a PhD does a lot more than put 'Dr' in front of your name. This level of qualification will give your opinions and advice real weight, helping you positively influence others and create lasting change.

Elevate your leadership and earning potential

A PhD is an important personal and professional achievement—and one that's recognised globally. Industries worldwide are seeking research experience and many senior and leadership roles require the completion of this degree. In some sectors, your earning potential will increase significantly.

Learn to thrive in uncertainty

You will develop the ability to set and work to your own agenda, demonstrating you've got what it takes to self-manage and tackle next-generation challenges in changing work landscapes—highly sought-after skills.

Build valuable networks

Collaboration is at the heart of any PhD. Whether you're working with industry, alongside other students, or under the wing of a lead researcher, you'll always be meeting new people and building important connections around the globe—not to mention presenting your findings to them.

Make a meaningful contribution in your field

Adding anything to the sum of human understanding is no small feat. While your work may not necessarily lead to a scientific paradigm shift, it will, by definition, shed new light in a reliable, documented way and ultimately move humanity forward.

Boost your confidence and independence

Adding the highest tertiary qualification available to your resume will improve more than your job prospects. If you can conquer a PhD, you can conquer anything.

History in the making

Lightning-fast Internet, super-safe med-tech

Harrison Lees *PhD candidate in applied electromagnetics*

Imagine if we could all access home Internet speeds around 1,000 times faster than currently possible. Or have biomedical images taken that show everything an X-ray does, but with zero risk of tissue damage.

These are just two of the incredible potential outcomes that Harrison's PhD research could deliver. He's leading development of a tiny, all-silicon integrated circuit platform that will be the world's lowest-loss broadband terahertz waveguide—enabling humanity to harness the remarkable properties of terahertz radiation.

Harrison's work has already attracted R&D partners in the defence, medical, and agricultural industries, and he couldn't be happier. "The process of seeing a system you conceived, designed and tested come to life is hugely satisfying," he says.

Why the University of Adelaide?

Established in 1874 as only the third university in Australia, Adelaide has a rich and proud history.

Ours was the first university in Australia to admit women to all academic courses; the first to offer degrees in science and business; and the first to establish a conservatorium of music. We were also the first Australian university to offer a Doctor of Music, and to grant that degree to a woman.

Today, that progressive and innovative spirit remains stronger than ever, as we continually ask ourselves, 'So, what's next?'. If you're ready to push boundaries, this is the place.

Positive momentum

The University of Adelaide has been recognised among the world's top universities for many years. But masked within that consistency is a clear upward trajectory. In 2015, Times Higher Education ranked us 164 in the world; in 2023 we came in 76 places higher at 88.

Outstanding connections

Adelaide is a member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight (Go8), comprised of the nation's leading research-intensive universities. Other members include the universities of Melbourne and Sydney, the University of New South Wales, Australian National University, Monash University, and the universities of Queensland and Western Australia.

This association brings significant opportunity. Go8 standing enhances our capacity to build, participate in and lead national and international research alliances and partnerships, including with government and industry partners—and will help you establish high-level collaborations and support wherever you need it.

Distinguished alumni

Our University's reputation for excellence and breaking new ground has been strengthened throughout our history by a continuous stream of exceptional people.

We proudly count among our distinguished alumni over 100 Rhodes Scholars, including the first and third Indigenous Australian recipients; Australia's first female prime minister and Supreme Court judge; and our nation's first member of NASA's elite astronaut corps to walk in space.

The 2020 Australian of the Year, 2021 Young Australian of the Year, and 2022 South Australian of the Year are also University of Adelaide alumni, as are the current and immediate-past governors of South Australia.

Additionally, we're associated with five Nobel laureates:

- Dr John Robin Warren, AC, Physiology or Medicine, 2005
- John M Coetzee, Literature, 2003
- Sir Howard Walter Florey, Physiology or Medicine, 1945
- Sir William Lawrence Bragg, Physics, 1915
- Sir William Henry Bragg, Physics, 1915.

Internationally recognised talent

The 2021 Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers list recognised 16 of our current academics for the scale of their global influence—four in multiple fields.

Times Higher Education in 2022 ranked us 111 in the world for research citations, and number three nationally.

And we've had early-career researchers recognised in MIT Technology Review's prestigious Innovators Under 35 list^ the last three years in a row; in 2021, we had two.

** Total unique entries across QS World University Rankings by Subject, Academic Ranking of World Universities by Subject, and Times Higher Education, 2022.*

^ Asia Pacific region.

Getting your PhD

Ranked 88 in the world*

** Times Higher Education, 2023.*

88

Associated with 5 Nobel laureates

5

Go8

Group of Eight member

Global alumni network

One of Australia's most liveable cities

Produced over 110 Rhodes Scholars

Uncompromising research excellence

Getting your PhD

“I can’t overstate the value of working with a PhD supervisor who totally understands what you’re trying to achieve, has the knowledge and experience to guide and support you, and has the national and international standing to help you establish deep industry connections. That’s what you’ll get here.”

Anton Middelberg
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
University of Adelaide

The University of Adelaide is renowned as one of Australia’s premier research institutions.

Our areas of greatest strength include:

- agriculture, food and wine
- defence, space and cyber security
- health and medicine
- engineering and technology
- life sciences
- resources and renewable energy
- sustainability and the environment.

In all fields, collaboration drives us. Our researchers (~1700 academic staff and 2300 research students) work closely across disciplines and in productive partnerships with industry, government and leading research institutions throughout the world.

For more information, visit:
adelaide.edu.au/research

Elite rankings by discipline

Globally

We’re recognised as one of the top 50 universities in the world in 9 discipline areas:

- Agricultural Sciences*
- Automation and Control*
- Civil Engineering*
- Computer Science and Engineering*
- Dentistry^
- Mineral and Mining Engineering*
- Nursing^
- Petroleum Engineering^
- Water Resources*.

And we stand among the world’s top 100 universities in another 13:

- Anatomy and Physiology^
- Clinical and Health†
- Development Studies^
- Earth and Marine Sciences^
- Education†
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering*
- Energy Science and Engineering*
- Geology^
- Mechanical Engineering*
- Pharmacy and Pharmacology^
- Philosophy^
- Public Health*
- Veterinary Science^

These discipline-specific rankings are variously based on a combination of relevant metrics, including: our researchers’ citation numbers and impact (h-index); publications in top-rated publications; volume of international research collaborations; scale of research networks; industry income; and our reputation among international academics and employers.

Nationally

The University of Adelaide’s research is universally recognised as world-standard or above by Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)**.

Notably, we have ERA’s highest possible 5/5, ‘well above world standard’ rating in 41 distinct fields. These span engineering, mathematics, science, medical and health sciences, agriculture and artificial intelligence.

** ARWU, 2022.*
^ QS, 2002.
† Times Higher Education, 2022.
*** 2018.*
^^ National Survey of Research Commercialisation 2018 Snapshot, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, based on 2014-16 data.

History in the making

Making sustainable agriculture attainable

Sara Qanti *PhD candidate in global food and resources*

Government policy has a critical role to play in soil and water conservation. But its impact can be minimal if gender’s influence on farming household decision-making isn’t well understood.

Sara’s PhD research is filling that gap. She’s analysing the decision-making process within smallholder agricultural households in rural Indonesia—and particularly women’s role in that process—to gauge how it affects the adoption of conservation practices.

Sara’s work is part of an umbrella project funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, and also involves Indonesia’s Ministry of Agriculture, and non-government Indonesian research agencies. “I love learning new things outside my comfort zone,” she says, “and meeting new people from all kinds of backgrounds.”

History in the making

Detecting hypersonic hardware

David McAfee *MPhil candidate in physical sciences*

Hypersonic vehicles travel at extreme speeds and are highly manoeuvrable. Unsurprisingly, developing countermeasures for them is a huge area of interest for national security.

David's MPhil research surrounds the use, prototyping, and packaging of lasers for deployment in this cutting-edge area. While the lasers he works with are designed for hypersonic vehicle detection, the work will likely also be useful for 3D mapping and LiDAR (light detection and ranging) technology. A large part of his team's vision is having multiple purposes and applications for anything they develop.

High-level collaboration on this project—specifically with the Defence Science and Technology Group—means that field testing is anticipated to occur within just a few years.

"Experimenting with the latest lasers—some of the most advanced technology out there—is a huge privilege", David says, "not to mention a lot of fun."

International leadership

In recent years, we were one of just three universities globally involved in the following three landmark physics discoveries: gravitational waves; the Higgs boson elementary particle; and a celestial source of high-energy neutrinos.

We're also co-leading creation of the world's definitive legal text on conflict in space, the Woomera Manual. Our robotic-vision teams regularly feature on international challenges' leader boards. And University of Adelaide photonics and advanced sensing researchers have created the world's most precise timepiece, the Sapphire Clock—a cryogenic sapphire oscillator accurate to the femtosecond.

Equally notably, our health researchers led the world's largest herd immunity study—South Australia's 2017-18 B Part of It meningococcal B vaccination trial—and are currently leading Australia's involvement in the international COVID sniffer dogs program.

A lightning rod for industry

Our world-class research's commercial value and impact draws interest and collaborative investment from all over Australia and the world. We have the fifth highest value of contracts, consultancies and collaborations of all Australian universities^^.

Some of the major companies the University's partnering with to create real-world impact include:

- Silanna Group, in advanced semiconductor manufacturing (co-located with us)
- Trajan, in new-generation science and medical equipment (co-located)
- Lockheed Martin, in defence-related machine learning (co-located)
- Dassault Systems, in digital mining and energy systems (co-located)
- BAE Systems, in defence-related radar technology
- Agilent Technologies Australia, in commercialising products from biomass
- Plant and Food Research Australia, in agri-food and horticultural product development.

A community built on values

The University of Adelaide has always sought to foster a culture in which our values are at the heart of everything we do. Ours is a culture where we lift each other up, value diverse experiences and perspectives, and celebrate the energy, drive and enthusiasm of a community motivated to succeed—including our doctoral candidates.

Integrity
We hold ourselves and each other accountable to be honest and fair.

Respect
We embrace diversity and uphold the dignity of each individual.

Collegiality
We explore ideas collaboratively and are united in our commitment to the University community.

Excellence
We deliver our best and celebrate outstanding performance.

Discovery
We are committed to learning, and we boldly approach the future with curiosity and energy.

Seven world-class research institutes

Each brings together world-renowned researchers and advanced facilities to meet challenges of national and global significance.

Robinson Research Institute

adelaide.edu.au/rri

The Robinson Research Institute focuses on the early stages of life to improve the health and wellbeing of children and families over the life course, and across generations. It seeks to enable a healthy start through:

- fertility choices and mindful conception
- nurturing the baby during pregnancy and birth
- strengthening the brain and body in early life
- advancing child and adolescent health to treat and prevent disease.

Environment Institute

adelaide.edu.au/environment

The Environment Institute develops and implements solutions to improve environmental health, boost community wellbeing, and sustain our economy. Its key areas of focus include:

- uncovering how life has evolved on the Australian landmass
- confronting environmental issues around the sourcing and supply of clean water
- working to ensure our environment thrives despite the pressures of society.

Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Resources

adelaide.edu.au/iser

ISER focuses on large-scale, interdisciplinary opportunities and challenges in deep resources and mining, complex processing, unconventional energy resources, and reliable low-cost and low-emission energy technologies.

Its researchers address the complex challenges faced by the mineral and energy resources sectors, and aim to establish South Australia as a world leader in the provision of research and education for these industries.

History in the making

Making more green power affordable

Sahand Karimi Arpanahi *PhD candidate in power systems engineering*

Sahand's PhD research could help make possible a critical step in Australia's efforts to achieve its Net Zero target: cost-effectively adding more clean, renewable energy to the grid, while simultaneously lowering households' electricity costs.

He's developing novel methods for battery storage sizing and operation that reduce the unpredictable fluctuations in solar and wind power generation, enabling higher profit for renewable power stations and lower bills for consumers.

The CSIRO is now closely involved, and AEMO's also interested. "I've really enjoyed the University's research-focused environment," says Sahand, "and my supervisors' focus on research quality, rather than quantity."

Getting your PhD

History in the making

Safeguarding against antisocial media

Bridget Smart *MPhil candidate in applied mathematics and statistics*

Social media's role in shaping our worldview is not yet fully understood. But when it comes to malicious posting, the effects are certainly being felt—in all areas of society, from politics to public health.

What impact does disinformation have on democracy? How susceptible are we to fake news? What happens when we get stuck in echo chambers?

Bridget is finding answers through her MPhil, using large volumes of data and complex mathematics from various fields.

"It's awesome to approach real-world issues from a mathematical perspective," Bridget says. "I'm excited by the possibility of making online spaces safer and stopping malicious actors from reaching and influencing vulnerable individuals."

History in the making

Alleviating chemotherapy side-effects

Shu Yie Janine Tam *PhD candidate in biomedicine*

We've all seen devastating chemo-therapy side effects in cancer patients —whether depicted in media or experienced by loved ones. We often notice hair loss, but equally as common are vomiting and diarrhoea.

PhD candidate Shu Yie is conducting research into chemotherapy-induced gastrointestinal disorders with the aim of developing an intervention. Her findings indicate it may be possible to prevent diarrhoea during therapy and significantly reduce intestinal tissue injuries.

"Carrying out carefully planned lab work is so fulfilling," she says. "I love seeing the results and knowing I'm the first person ever to comprehend them and their implications."

Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing

adelaide.edu.au/ipas

IPAS brings together physicists, chemists and biologists to pursue a transdisciplinary approach to science. Its researchers develop novel photonic, sensing and measurement technologies, with a focus on:

- optical materials and structures
- lasers and nonlinear optics
- remote sensing
- chemical and radiation sensing
- surface and synthetic chemistry
- medical diagnostics
- biological sensing.

Waite Research Institute

adelaide.edu.au/wri

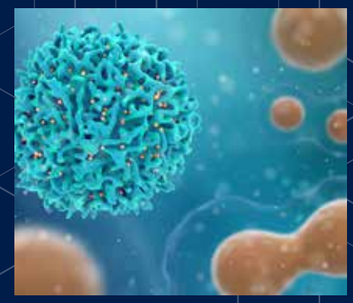
The Waite Research Institute is the largest agricultural research hub in the Southern Hemisphere, and plays a leading role in addressing global challenges such as food security and agricultural sustainability. It brings together a vast array of University of Adelaide researchers and co-located industry in the areas of:

- plant and crop sciences
- soil science
- viticulture and oenology
- food and nutrition
- food chain economics.

Australian Institute for Machine Learning

adelaide.edu.au/aiml

AIML places South Australia on the global map of the world's best centres of excellence in machine learning. Australia's largest such institute, it continues to build on a strong track record of high-tech development for local and international companies by allowing businesses to access world-leading expertise and technology in image detection, and world-class capabilities in machine learning.



South Australian Immunogenomics Cancer Institute

adelaide.edu.au/saigenci

SAiGENCI is South Australia's world-class cancer research institute, jointly resourced by the federal Department of Health, the Central Adelaide Local Health Network, and the University of Adelaide.

The institute coordinates collaboration in the fight to control cancer and explore a cure, including with similarly focused centres of excellence all over the world. It delivers life-changing treatments and outcomes for cancer patients.

Campuses of global standing

Our campuses are welcoming, dynamic places designed to support a wide range of experiences for staff, students and the community.

Virtual tours

Explore our virtual video tours to discover your place among the iconic heritage-listed architecture and state-of-the-art facilities on our beautiful, historic main campus; experience our innovative Adelaide Health and Medical Sciences building in the heart of the Adelaide BioMed City precinct; or uncover the picturesque settings and advanced technology available at our satellite campuses, Waite and Roseworthy.

Visit: adelaide.edu.au/tours

Adelaide

The University's main campus is located on the city's cultural boulevard, North Terrace, in the heart of Adelaide. The campus boasts many grand, historic sandstone buildings and award-winning contemporary architecture. The University's five faculties are based at the North Terrace campus.

Waite

Located approximately seven kilometres south-east of Adelaide, Waite is the pre-eminent plant and agricultural science hub in the Southern Hemisphere. It is also home to the Waite Research Institute.

Roseworthy

Roseworthy is approximately 50 kilometres north of Adelaide. The campus is a world-renowned centre for excellence in dry-land agriculture and animal production and is also home to South Australia's only veterinary school.

Melbourne

Located on the western fringe of the city in Docklands, our Melbourne campus is a collaboration with University of Adelaide College.

Championing equity and diversity

We're committed to the principles of social justice, equal opportunity and cultural diversity, and to providing a safe, tolerant, inclusive and respectful university environment.

There are a number of initiatives, activities and groups that focus on improving gender equity and diversity across the University and the wider community.

Gender equity strategy

Named after Edith Dornwell, the University's first female graduate in 1885, the University's gender equity strategy, is outlined in the Dornwell Framework at: adelaide.edu.au/hr/development/genderequity/dornwell

The equity and diversity agenda outlined in the Dornwell Framework is pursued and put into action by our Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee. The committee's University-wide priorities include improving:

- representation of women in the University, particularly in senior academic and management roles
- access, retention, participation and success for Indigenous staff and students
- all aspects of the University's capacity to work well with staff and students with a disability
- support for international students, particularly in regard to communication, cultural awareness and social issues.

History in the making

Reducing chronic pain for millions

Diksha Sirohi
PhD candidate in digital health

Endometriosis is a big problem; it causes chronic, severe pain for 11% of natal females globally. And when that pain hits, everyday life becomes all but impossible.

Diksha—through her PhD research—is making a difference. In consultation with the Australian endometriosis community, she's co-creating the world's first evidence-based endometriosis digital health resource: EndoZone.

Crucially, EndoZone's online tools will enable early diagnosis, which can significantly reduce future complications and minimise the condition's impact. "I love being able to support and empower this community," says Diksha. "It's incredibly rewarding."

For further information about how the University of Adelaide strives to provide an inclusive and respectful university environment, please visit: adelaide.edu.au/hr/organisational-development/diversity-and-inclusion

Industry opportunities

Participation in one of our unique industry engagement programs provides a strong complement to your studies and gives you a head start in future employment opportunities.

There are a number of initiatives, such as financially supported research internships with industry partner organisations, co-supervision by industry leaders, or projects embedded within industry. To learn more, visit: adelaide.edu.au/graduate-research/industry-opportunities

Career development

As a University of Adelaide research student, you'll benefit from our state-of-the-art Career and Research Skills Training (CaRST) program.

CaRST will equip you with the skills to become a more effective and well-rounded researcher and prepare for careers both within and outside academia. There's no set curriculum; rather, the program is designed in consultation with you to meet your unique career goals and training needs.

For more information, visit: adelaide.edu.au/graduate-research/career-development/carst-program-overview

Which degree is right for you?

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

A PhD is the basic qualification for a research career or academic position, and is a stepping-stone to a range of career opportunities.

It involves: three to four years of research for a full-time candidate, or the equivalent in half-time candidature; and, when undertaken with us at the University of Adelaide, 120 hours of professional development in our world-class Career and Research Skills Training (CaRST) program.

Joint PhDs with international partner institutions

You can also undertake a PhD jointly with the University of Adelaide and an international partner institution. This includes, but is not limited to, the following universities:

- University of Nottingham (UK)
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)
- University of Nagoya (Japan).

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

The MPhil is conducted over 18 to 24 months of full-time study, or the equivalent in half-time candidature.

The key aim of this program is to train students in research methodology and techniques, and to engage them in the critical evaluation of literature and results in their field of research at an advanced level.

While the MPhil may contain a significant coursework component, the focus of the degree is very much on research, so upon graduation you would be well placed to progress to a PhD. It can also greatly increase your career opportunities in its own right, whether in industry, government or academia.

History in the making

Predicting orbiting objects' paths

Chee-Kheng Chng
PhD candidate in machine learning

Things are getting pretty crowded up there; the US Space Command now tracks almost 35,000 objects in low Earth orbit. So in the interests of keeping valuable items safe, such as satellites, it pays to be able to accurately calculate their path, as quickly and easily as possible.

Through his PhD project AI4SPACE, Chee-Keng is finding an answer. With support from defence prime Lockheed Martin, he's developing a novel algorithm that can accurately estimate a satellite's orbit simply by evaluating a long-exposure digital image of it.

Chee Keng is also exploring the use of various techniques to help identify distant stars, and reconstruct the shape of objects in space. "I love learning new stuff," he says. "The privilege of being able to sit down and ponder every day is something I don't take for granted."

How to apply

Step 1

Check your eligibility

For the Doctor of Philosophy

To gain admission into a PhD, you'll need to hold one of the following:

- relevant University of Adelaide honours degree (or equivalent), with at least a second-class honours (upper division)
- postgraduate coursework degree which contains a significant research component and meets the minimum GPA requirements
- relevant University of Adelaide MPhil (or equivalent).

You'll also need to meet the University's English language proficiency requirements. For details, visit: adelaide.edu.au/graduate-research/future-students/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements

For the Master of Philosophy

To meet the minimum academic standing required for admission to an MPhil you'll need to have completed a relevant University of Adelaide bachelor degree (or equivalent), with a distinction average.

Step 2

Find your supervisor

While your academic credentials will determine your eligibility for a graduate research degree, your likelihood of receiving an offer will largely be determined by:

- alignment of your interests with an area of research at the University, and potential supervisors' work
- supervisors' capacity to accept you as a student.

Before applying for admission and/or scholarship, you'll need written confirmation of supervisory support from an eligible principal supervisor.

Like some help identifying the right person?

To request assistance in finding a suitable supervisor, email us at: research_degrees@adelaide.edu.au

Step 3

Explore our scholarships

The University of Adelaide offers several scholarship schemes for domestic students commencing postgraduate research.

A range of government- and University-funded scholarships are awarded on academic merit and research potential for full-time study towards a MPhil or PhD. In recent years, successful applicants have held first-class honours degrees or equivalent qualifications.

Additionally, there are other opportunities that include externally funded major awards, top-ups, industry programs and placements, allowances for operating costs, and travel scholarships.

For more information on scholarship opportunities, visit: scholarships.adelaide.edu.au

Step 4

Submit your application

A well-prepared application is considered favourably when the University is assessing you for admission to a higher degree by research.

Before lodging your application, make sure you have all required documentation in order. Visit the Adelaide Research Graduate School website and follow the five simple steps to apply: adelaide.edu.au/graduate-research/future-students/how-to-apply

FAQs

How does a PhD or MPhil work?

You'll begin by refining your goals, reviewing similar studies, and designing relevant experiments. You will then implement your ideas and analyse the data collected. In your final year, you'll finish your thesis: 70,000 to 80,000 words describing your investigations and findings to authenticate your unique contribution to academic research. Theses can be prepared in a variety of formats, and your choice may be influenced by your field of study. Your thesis does not necessarily have to be a single piece, either; you could opt for a thesis by publications, for example.

When should I start thinking about doing one?

Honours students should start considering the PhD pathway as early as possible. Those seeking scholarships should apply in one of the yearly domestic scholarship rounds, open in May and September.

How long will it take me to complete a PhD?

A PhD involves three to four years of research for a full-time candidate, or the equivalent in half-time candidature. Your PhD may take more or less time, depending on circumstance.

Can I work while doing my research?

Yes. However, given the research commitment required, some people may find it challenging to work and undertake a PhD at the same time. Students on a scholarship can work a maximum of eight hours per week during normal business hours. Many PhD candidates take on roles lecturing or tutoring at the University.

How much does it cost?

If you're a domestic student, it's free. Domestic students are allocated a Research Training Program Fees Offset place, currently valued at $27,411 per annum (indexed annually). This place provides Commonwealth funding to the University on your behalf and means that your existing HECS debt will not increase.

Can I choose my supervisor?

Yes! Tell us about yourself and who you would like to work with and we'll put you in contact. You will need to discuss your project with them directly to determine if they're the right fit, but rest assured all our academic staff will welcome the opportunity to help if they have availability.

How do I choose a research degree topic?

We have over 300 research topics ready to go, many with scholarships or industry connections attached. You can also follow your passions and pursue a topic of your choosing.

History in the making

Mapping vino's many moods

Claire Armstrong *PhD candidate in wine chemistry*

So many factors influence the final product from a grapevine. Fruit left to mature for just one extra week can produce different aromas, flavours, colours, mouthfeels, and tastes.

Managing variance in grape metabolites can vastly improve a drop of "cab sav"—and that's precisely what Claire aims to achieve through her PhD. By developing an index that rapidly determines variability within vineyards, she's supporting the wine industry to make more informed viticulture and winemaking decisions.

"I love the diversity of experience in this field; one day I'm indoors in the lab, the next I'm out and about in a vineyard," Claire says. "It's also really rewarding to share research and watch real people apply my learnings and benefit from them."

Let’s start talking

If you’re ready to make a real contribution to research at a globally respected institution, don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Adelaide Graduate Research School

hours Monday-Friday, 10am–4pm
enquiries research_degrees@adelaide.edu.au
phone +61 8 8313 5882
web adelaide.edu.au/graduate-research/future-students/how-to-apply

Further enquiries

Adelaide Graduate Research School
The University of Adelaide SA 5005 Australia

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Kaurna acknowledgement

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kaurna people, the original custodians of the Adelaide Plains and the land on which the University of Adelaide's campuses at North Terrace, Waite, and Roseworthy are built. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Kaurna people to country and we respect and value their past, present and ongoing connection to the land and cultural beliefs. The University continues to develop respectful and reciprocal relationships with all Indigenous peoples in Australia, and with other Indigenous peoples throughout the world.