

Graduate Research School

JCU is a leader in research addressing the critical challenges facing the tropics, world-wide.

A defining feature of JCU is its tropical location and its research excellence in disciplines of particular relevance to the tropics. As a comprehensive university in the tropics, JCU is well placed to foster cross-disciplinary collaborations to meet these challenges.

JCU is committed to providing shape and direction to our research by alignment with four major themes:

- Tropical ecosystems, conservation and climate change
- Industries and economies in the tropics
- People and societies in the tropics
- Tropical health, medicine and biosecurity

JCU is committed to research of excellence and high impact, particularly on issues of critical importance to the world's tropics. As a regionally-based university, we recognise our obligation to engage with industry and government, commercialise our research findings and achieve critical mass through productive research partnerships with other research organisations. JCU is a site and catalyst for innovation and understanding.

We build on current areas of world-class excellence to achieve a strong performance in scholarship and teaching inspired by a research-enriched environment. We recognise that the University is judged not only on its quality but equally on its relevance and impact beyond academia.

Tropical issues provide the focus to the University's research mission, driven by our unique geographical location, particularly its close proximity to the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef and Wet Tropics rainforests and its links with rural, remote and Indigenous communities and industries.

In recent years, JCU has consolidated its strengths in tropical science, knowledge and innovation by increasing its collaboration with other research organisations in the northern Queensland region, including the Australian Institute of Marine Science (through [AIMS@JCU](#)) and CSIRO, a process facilitated by major infrastructure developments which allow our researchers to be co-located with researchers from partner institutions.

Together with key areas of JCU-based research such as the [ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies](#) and [The Cairns Institute](#), these developments have significantly expanded the University's research base and its network of collaborations both in Australia and globally.

JCU ranked in the top 4% of universities in the pre-eminent global rankings system, the Academic Ranking of World Universities in 2015, for the sixth year in a row and is a member of the consortium of Innovative Research Universities Australia.

JCU currently has an enrolment of some 900 research higher degree candidates, more than 30% of which are international. Research higher degree candidates represent 5.5% of JCU's total student enrolments.

JCU funds its seven academic Colleges for research education based on their research performance. In addition, JCU has invested in the following central structures and resources to ensure that research training is of high quality across the University:

- A Graduate Research School, which ensures that the policies and procedures for admission, monitoring of progress, and examination are consistent across all colleges
- A centrally administered system of milestones including a formal Confirmation of Candidature, Progress Reporting, Mid-Candidature Review and Pre-Completion Evaluation
- A centralised competitive system for awarding Australian Government and University stipend scholarships based on the academic and research record of the prospective candidates and the research and research training record of the proposed advisory panel
- Fee Subsidy Scholarships for international research higher degree candidates who win competitive stipend scholarships
- A Research Skills Program of free professional development seminars and workshops. Each doctoral candidate must complete 80 hours of professional development customised to their individual needs and career aspirations
- A StatsHelp program that offers specialist statistical advice for research higher degree candidates
- The Skills for International Postgraduates (SKIP) Program that provides mandatory specialist support to international research higher degree candidates
- English Language support customised to the needs of individual research higher degree candidates in association with Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement
- Advisor registration, accreditation and research supervision training
- A policy on the minimum standard of resources, facilities and other support to be provided for various categories of research higher degree candidates
- A Graduate Student Centre on the Cairns Campus
- A scheme of competitive grants for research higher degree candidates

The academic divisions and colleges offer additional support. For example, a Cohort Doctoral Studies Program is conducted by the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine.

JCU has made these investments in research education in recognition of its importance to our national knowledge economy and Innovations agenda and international commitment to the tropics. We are keenly conscious of the contributions made by research higher degree candidates to innovation, new knowledge and Australia's productivity and competitiveness.

The Dean, Graduate Research who is based in Townsville, is supported by a Deputy Dean in Cairns and a Dean of Research in Singapore, is responsible for the management of all research degrees (Masters, PhDs, Research Professional Doctorates and coursework Doctorates) with the assistance of Graduate Research School (GRS) professional staff and key staff within the colleges.

Policies and procedures are developed by the Dean, Graduate Research and Research Education Sub-Committee, which in turn report to the Research Committee and Academic Board.

Visit the GRS website for access to the HDR Requirements, Procedures and links to relevant University policy: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/grs/>