



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA**

Applying for

**Higher Degrees  
by Research**



**FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

# Welcome from Professor

Imelda Whelehan,

Dean, Graduate Research School



“Our researchers tackle global, regional and local issues to make the world a better place. Their research translates into economic, social and environmental impact. UWA is a research-intensive university consistently ranking in the top one per cent of the world’s universities. Based in Perth, Western Australia, we contribute to global knowledge while meeting the needs of local, national and international communities. We benefit from vital research funding which enables us to translate our research into tangible benefits for Australia and the world.”

## UWA’s research strengths

**UWA researchers are globally prominent in a wide variety of research fields, including:**

- Agricultural Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Economics, Marketing and Data Analytics
- Environmental Science and Engineering
- Health and Medical Sciences
- Legal Studies, Public Policy and Education
- Marine/Ocean Engineering
- Political Sciences
- Society, Culture and Music

UWA is home to two Nobel Prize for Medicine Laureates - Professors Barry Marshall and Robin Warren. Fields Medalist, Professor Akshay Venkatesh, is also an alumnus of UWA. The University also hosts seven of the world’s Highly Cited Researchers and more than 60 academics across all of Australia’s learned academies. Our Humanities, Economics, Law and Social Sciences programs have fostered a Prime Minister and state premiers, as well as many other leaders in Australian society and leaders in many other countries.

**The University has identified a number of cross-disciplinary strategic research areas:**

- Designing Our Future
- A Just And Cultured World
- Healthy Futures
- Sustainable Environment
- Data-intensive Discovery

UWA actively collaborates with other research institutions across a broad spectrum of research opportunities, from radio astronomy and supercomputing (playing an integral role in the Square Kilometre Array), offshore engineering and marine science, through to collaborations in agricultural science, rock art, digital humanities, data analytics, cultural values, Indigenous Law, educational policy, urban design, digital music, biomedical science, population and global health, clinical trials and the translation of health research into clinical practice.

The prioritisation of these areas, many of which are complementary and allow for interdisciplinary interaction, ensures our researchers are searching for solutions to the key world issues, in collaboration with their local, national and international colleagues.

[research.uwa.edu.au/research-strengths](https://research.uwa.edu.au/research-strengths)

# Faculty research areas

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## Arts, Business, Law and Education

The Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education brings together some of our greatest minds to ask the important questions in life. We generate valuable research that impacts and improves lives both nationally and internationally.

Our research is consistently classified as above or well above world standards by the Australian Research Council. It also addresses issues of social and political impact that inform our world and drive change.

We support researchers throughout their careers, from PhD students and early career researchers, to award-winning professors and Australian Laureate Fellows.

The Faculty comprises seven Schools that provide for disciplinary coherence and capitalise on emerging and existing cross-disciplinary opportunities in teaching, research and external engagement:

- Business School (Economics, Accounting, Finance, Marketing, and Management and Organisations)
- Conservatorium of Music
- Graduate School of Education
- Law School
- School of Design
- School of Humanities
- School of Social Sciences

[uwa.edu.au/able/research](http://uwa.edu.au/able/research)

[uwa.edu.au/able/research/phd-opportunities](http://uwa.edu.au/able/research/phd-opportunities)

## Engineering and Mathematical Sciences

The Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences attracts and supports talented teaching and research staff who are committed to innovating in their field. The world is quickly evolving with rapid population growth, higher standards

of living and environmental challenges requiring smarter ways to use energy and resources. EMS empowers researchers to change our world, developing innovative ideas for the future. Well-established links between the Faculty and industry also mean our graduates enjoy excellent career prospects.

The Faculty has three key research themes:

- Engineering for Remote Operations
- Science of Discovery
- Technologies for Better Health

Renowned as a leader in high-impact research, with a focus on areas such as offshore engineering and oceanography, data science and analytics, sensing, robotics and automation, bioengineering, advanced materials, sustainable energy and water supplies, pure mathematics, astronomical sciences and gravitational waves, the Faculty's research teams benefit from state-of-the-art sophisticated infrastructure and national and global collaborations, and attract significant grants and contracts from government and industry.

[uwa.edu.au/ems/research](http://uwa.edu.au/ems/research)

[uwa.edu.au/ems/research/phd-opportunities](http://uwa.edu.au/ems/research/phd-opportunities)

## Health and Medical Sciences

The Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences offers courses, training and research opportunities in a wide range of scientific and clinical disciplines to significantly benefit the health of Australian and international communities.

As a research-oriented faculty, we encourage the lifelong adaptation and assessment of new theories, treatments and diagnostic techniques that incorporate a holistic approach to the health

sciences and a more sensitive interaction with patients.

Research opportunities are available across the Faculty's five schools:

- Dental School
- Medical School
- School of Allied Health
- School of Biomedical Sciences
- School of Population and Global Health

[uwa.edu.au/health/research](http://uwa.edu.au/health/research)

[uwa.edu.au/health/research/phd-opportunities](http://uwa.edu.au/health/research/phd-opportunities)

## Science

UWA science researchers are tackling the global, regional and local challenges facing humanity over the next 50 years. As a research-intensive university in the top one per cent of universities worldwide, we contribute to global knowledge while meeting the needs of communities. We benefit from vital funding which helps us translate our research into tangible benefits for all.

The diverse nature of our Faculty and Western Australia's resource-rich environment give our students unique research opportunities. The Faculty of Science focuses on meaningful change for the world and humanity in six key research areas:

- Feeding the world
- Preventing, diagnosing and treating disease
- Furthering human knowledge and serving humanity
- Harnessing resources and energy for a sustainable future
- Restoring and maintaining balance in our natural environment
- Optimising physical and mental performance

[uwa.edu.au/science/research](http://uwa.edu.au/science/research)

[uwa.edu.au/science/research/phd-opportunities](http://uwa.edu.au/science/research/phd-opportunities)

# The application process

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## Step 1

### Find a potential supervisor

We can help you determine your eligibility and find a supervisor in your proposed research area. Contact your HDR Support Team, as below:

#### Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education

[hdr-fable@uwa.edu.au](mailto:hdr-fable@uwa.edu.au)

#### Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences

[hdr-ems@uwa.edu.au](mailto:hdr-ems@uwa.edu.au)

#### Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences

[hdr-hms@uwa.edu.au](mailto:hdr-hms@uwa.edu.au)

#### Faculty of Science

[hdr-science@uwa.edu.au](mailto:hdr-science@uwa.edu.au)

You will be asked to complete an 'Expression of Interest form'.

## Step 2

### Lodge an application

Once your eligibility and supervision has been confirmed, you will be requested to submit a formal application form at [postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/forms#appforms](https://postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/forms#appforms), along with additional supporting documentation, to the respective HDR Support Team or to an authorised UWA representative at [uwa.edu.au/study/agents](https://uwa.edu.au/study/agents).

This application should include:

- a completed and signed research application form
- all certified documents as listed on the application form
- a brief outline (maximum 250 words) of your proposed research project

#### Sponsored and scholarship students

Students seeking a UWA scholarship, or one of the scholarships listed below, should complete the online application form (via iAthena) on the Scholarships website: [scholarships.uwa.edu.au/futurestudents/postgrad](https://scholarships.uwa.edu.au/futurestudents/postgrad)

Some externally sponsored students, e.g. Australia Awards applicants, will submit their formal application directly through their sponsor (not UWA) once their prospective supervisors have been identified. These applicants will therefore not need to complete Step 2 in this process.

Please contact the relevant Faculty HDR Support Team for more information and support.

## Important information

### Scholarships

UWA offers a range of scholarships to international students for postgraduate research degrees (subject to funding in each relevant year), including:

- University Postgraduate Awards and University International Fee Scholarships (tuition, Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), stipend of AUD\$30,000 per annum)
- UWA China Scholarships (tuition, OSHC, CSC stipend of AUD\$20,400 per annum, return airfares to Australia)
- Forrest Research Foundation Scholarships (tuition, OSHC, stipend of AUD\$30,000 per annum, research and travel allowance of AUD\$13,000, and accommodation at Forrest Hall)
- Dean's Excellence in Science PhD Scholarships (tuition, OSHC, stipend of AUD\$40,000 per annum, travel allowance of AUD\$5,000 per annum, research allowance of AUD\$5,000 per annum)
- Dean's Excellence in Arts, Business, Law and Education PhD Scholarships (tuition, OSHC, stipend of AUD\$33,000 per annum)
- English Language Bridging Scholarship (10 weeks English tuition at UWA's Centre for English Language Teaching (CELT), stipend of AUD\$450 per week for up to 12 weeks, with IELTS 6.0 overall and min. 5.5 in each band)

For further information on research scholarships available for international students visit:

[scholarships.uwa.edu.au/futurestudents/postgrad/international](https://scholarships.uwa.edu.au/futurestudents/postgrad/international)

or email [internationalscholarships@uwa.edu.au](mailto:internationalscholarships@uwa.edu.au)

## Step 3

### Application outcome

The whole assessment process typically takes four to six weeks to complete. Once finalised, you will receive an outcome letter.

Incomplete applications and those requiring further clarification will take longer. To ensure the fastest response time, please follow the application instructions carefully.

#### Offer letter

If you meet all admission requirements and the University is in a position to offer you a place, you will be issued with an unconditional offer and an Acceptance of Offer contract.

#### Conditional and packaged offers

A conditional offer or an English packaged offer may be issued to an applicant who:

- has not yet met the English language requirements
- must provide further academic documentation, or
- must provide other documentation for enrolment

Please note that your offer letter includes pre-departure information to help you prepare for your move to Perth.

For more information visit: [student.uwa.edu.au/international/newstudents](https://student.uwa.edu.au/international/newstudents)

## Step 4

### Accept your offer

Follow the acceptance instructions on the offer letter carefully and read the terms of the offer thoroughly. To accept the offer, return a signed copy of all pages of the Acceptance Contract and Refund Policy.

#### Fee payment

When returning the signed Acceptance Contract and Refund Policy, you must also attach proof of first payment which includes the Overseas Student Health Cover, or provide a financial guarantee letter if you are a sponsored student.

#### Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment

Once proof of payment or a financial guarantee letter is received along with the Acceptance Contract and Refund Policy, an Electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCOE) will be sent to you and/or your representative. This is required to obtain a student visa. To apply for a student visa, visit the Department of Home Affairs website: [homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa/appl/student](https://homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa/appl/student)

#### Fees

For information on tuition fees, please go to [fees.uwa.edu.au](https://fees.uwa.edu.au)

#### Eligibility for Higher Degrees by Research (PhDs, Research Doctorates and Master's by Research)

Students must provide evidence of adequate research preparation prior to being accepted into the course. The University will then determine whether appropriate supervision and resourcing are available.

For further information visit [postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/courses](https://postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/courses)

#### English Language requirements

IELTS equivalent of 6.5 (min. of 6.0 in each band) or other approved academic English tests. Higher IELTS scores are required for admission to selected schools.

For further information on eligibility requirements, visit [uwa.edu.au/study/PG-lang-req](https://uwa.edu.au/study/PG-lang-req)

# Perth is one of Australia's most affordable capital cities

(Worldwide Cost of Living Survey 2019, Economist Intelligence Unit)



## INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED

### RANKED IN THE WORLD'S TOP 100

(QS 2021)

## #1 IN WA FOR GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY

(QS GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY RANKING 2020)

## SCHOOLING FOR CHILDREN OF MASTER'S & PHD STUDENTS\*

\*Some schools have limited places and other modest fees apply. For more information visit

[uwa.edu.au/study/international-students/moving-to-perth/dependant-schooling](http://uwa.edu.au/study/international-students/moving-to-perth/dependant-schooling)

## RANKED IN THE WORLD'S TOP 50

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY  
CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING  
EARTH AND MARINE SCIENCES  
MINERAL AND MINING ENGINEERING  
PSYCHOLOGY  
SPORTS-RELATED SUBJECTS  
(QS 2020)

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AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES  
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
CLINICAL MEDICINE  
ECOLOGY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING  
HUMAN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
MARINE/OCEAN ENGINEERING  
MINING AND MINERAL ENGINEERING  
OCEANOGRAPHY  
(ARWU 2019)

## Graduate Research School

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