Macquarie’s built environment and design research is of an international calibre. In the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2012 evaluation our built environment and design research received a rating of ‘performance at world standard’.

Built environment and design research at Macquarie is characterised by interdisciplinary perspectives. Research among our team of urban and regional planning researchers intersects with the fields of human geography, environmental science and management, demography, geographic information systems, law, and resilience to climate change.

A major emphasis of research in this area is practical engagement with, and assessment of, existing planning systems. Research focuses on contemporary Sydney and New South Wales, as well as on the US, Europe and East Asia. Key contributions are made to planning theory, especially in the realm of culture and representation; environmental planning and sustainability; heritage; urban governance; master planning; and migration.

Significant collaborations exist with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Ryde and Ku-ring-gai Councils, and the Nursery Garden Industry of Australia; as well as with international institutions such as Queen Mary’s University London, York and Durham Universities, and the Universities of Glasgow and Tokyo.

As an HDR candidate you will be encouraged to take an interdisciplinary approach to addressing contemporary environmental and planning challenges. With such an approach, your research will be solving the big issues that matter to business and society.
Highlights

- Our researchers serve on a number of national bodies which have roles in policy, planning assessment and research grant adjudication. Organisations include the NSW Land and Environment Commission and the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute.

- Senior researchers have strong international reputations in the field, regularly refereeing articles for distinct international peer-reviewed journals; assessing proposals for ARC Discovery Grants; and authoring reports for the US National Science Foundation, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, and the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

Support

HDR candidates are provided with strong academic and administrative support. This includes:

- Commencement and Completion programs
- Discipline-specific research training units, including workshops in research communication, presentation skills, academic writing skills, thesis planning, and poster preparation
- Experienced supervisors and department-based higher degree research directors
- Financial support for research project costs, including top-up scholarships from industry
- Regular progress reports and interviews, and/or work-in-progress presentations in which research candidates receive feedback on their work from a panel of academics in their field

Research leaders

Macquarie is home to many internationally renowned researchers, including:

**Associate Professor Robyn Dowling** is a human geographer researching in the areas of home, gender, class, urban and regional development, and mobility. Her focus is on the culture of cities, and in particular the ways that gender and class identities overlap in the everyday lives of urban residents. A secondary research interest is in retailing, and especially the interconnections of culture and capital in contemporary retailing strategies. Her recently published book – *Home* – born from research on reinterpreting suburbia, focuses on the nature of home in contemporary Sydney.

**Dr Kristian Ruming**’s research interests centre on issues of housing and urban planning, with a specific focus on social housing provision in New South Wales, in particular residents’ experience of their neighbourhood and the evaluation of policies tied to urban renewal and community regeneration. He has been involved in a number of projects conducted by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute exploring housing affordability stress experienced by low-income renters and the impacts of state and local government levies, charges and taxes on the purchase price of dwellings in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

The information in this document is correct as at the date of publication but the University reserves the right to vary or withdraw any general information, any program(s) and/or fees without notice.