Macquarie's built environment and design research is of an international calibre. In the most recent Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 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 demography, environmental science and management, geographic information systems, human geography, law, and resilience to climate change.

A major emphasis of our research is practical engagement with, and assessment of, existing planning systems, with a focus on contemporary Sydney and New South Wales, as well as on the US, Europe and East Asia.

Our research makes key contributions to planning theory, especially in the realm of culture and representation, environmental planning and sustainability, transport, heritage, housing, master planning, migration and urban governance.

We have significant collaborations with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Macquarie Park Forum, New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation, and Ryde and Ku-ring-gai Councils, as well as with international institutions such as Durham and York Universities, Queen Mary University of London, 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.

**AREAS OF SPECIALISATION**
- Environmental ethics
- Geographical information science
- Housing studies
- Natural hazards risk assessment
- Political ecology
- Resource and environmental management
- Urban regeneration and renewal
- Urban, social and community planning

**FACILITIES**
- Climate science laboratory
- Environmental quality laboratory
- Gas chromatography and analytical facilities
- Geographic information systems
- Laboratory for thermal and environmental processing

**RESEARCH HUBS**
- Australian Research Institute for Environment and Sustainability
- Climate Futures
- Concentration of Research Excellence in Climate Risk
- Concentration of Research Excellence in Social Inclusion
- Risk Frontiers
Highlights

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

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

Support

We give HDR candidates 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:

Dr Donna Houston has a background in cultural studies, geography and planning, and has been published in leading international journals in these fields. Her research focuses on environmental justice, environmental degradation and political ecologies of the city. She has a secondary research interest in urban planning processes and ‘rights to city’, and especially how policies and practices of urban consolidation, urban biodiversity and climate change can enable or constrain environmentally just and ecologically resilient urban formations. She is currently undertaking individual and collaborative research that explores urban toxicity through political ecologies of the home, urban planning systems and ‘multinatural’ justice, and the production and revitalisation of urban brownfields and wastelands.

Dr Kristian Ruming is an urban geographer whose research interests centre on issues of housing and urban planning, with a specific focus on social housing provision, urban regeneration and planning system reform across Australia. He is currently undertaking research that explores new social housing provision and management structures being rolled out across New South Wales, planning system reform occurring across states and the impact of increased codification of development assessment on the structure and function of our cities, and the processes of ‘city-wide’ urban regeneration drawing on an assemblage theoretical framework. His research has been funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, the Australian Research Council, state government agencies and local councils.

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