Faculty of Human Sciences

The Faculty of Human Sciences brings together disciplines that share common research interests in Health, Education, Language and Mind.

- Australian School of Advanced Medicine
- Department of Linguistics
- Department of Psychology
- Institute of Early Childhood
- Institute of Human Cognition and Brain Science
- School of Education
With ERA rankings of 5 in cognitive science and psychology and 4 in linguistics, the faculty has outstanding researchers and facilities across a range of areas. We are host to:

- Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders – a collaboration with the University of New South Wales and the University of Western Australia
- Five well-established research centres with strong national and international links
- Four Concentrations of Research Excellence with contributions to others across the University
- Australian Hearing Hub – Commonwealth-funded world-class facility for speech and hearing sciences accommodating researchers and major industry partners (opening in 2012)
- Macquarie University Hospital – the only hospital owned and operated by a university in Australia

The Faculty of Human Sciences is committed to advancing knowledge and professional practice underpinned by cutting-edge research, critical analysis and professional leadership. We engage with important local and global issues to seek solutions based on sound evidence and ethical practice.

We promote cross-disciplinary and collaborative research and offer a stimulating environment for candidates. Engagement in the intellectual life of the faculty is actively encouraged through regular seminars, workshops and multi-disciplinary supervisory teams. The Annual Research Showcase is a highlight of the year in which outstanding HDR candidates are profiled.

Our research culture is founded on collaboration, support, and networking, contained within a climate that allows candidates and academic staff to work together and conduct research in a positive and sustaining atmosphere. We cater to candidates in various modes of study. We have many years’ experience with distance supervision, ensuring full participation of off-campus candidates in the intellectual life of the faculty.

**Research Stars**

- Australian Research Council APD researchers: Dr Anina Rich (Cognitive Science), Dr Megan Oaten (Psychology) and Dr Linda Graham (Education)
- Australian Research Council ARF researchers: Associate Professor Amanda Barnier (Cognitive Science), Associate Professor Genvieve McArthur (Cognitive Science), Dr Matthew Finkbeiner (Cognitive Science) and Dr Jon Brock (Cognitive Science)
- Australian Research Council QEII researchers: Professor Mark Williams (Cognitive Science) and Associate Professor Jenny Hudson (Psychology)
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- Distinguished Professors:
  Stephen Crain (Linguistics) Director, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders, and
  Ron Rapee (Psychology) Director, Centre for Emotional Health
- National Health and Medical Research Council researchers:
  Professor Paul Pilowsky (Medicine), Professor Lyndsey Nickels (Cognitive Science), Dr Vivianna Wuthrich (Psychology),
  Dr Heidi Lyneham (Psychology) and Dr Paul Sowman (Cognitive Science)

Support
Candidates are actively encouraged to contribute to the research community and beyond through their involvement in professional learning seminars, conferences, and publications. We offer the following:
- Award-winning support staff
- Faculty Commencement Program which provides the best possible start to your research, establishing benchmarks and providing valuable feedback early in your candidature
- Faculty Completion Program which helps you as you near the completion of your studies and look towards your future career
- Generous funding to support your research and its dissemination

PhD spotlight
Dr Peng Zhou is an active scholar in developmental psycholinguistics.

He has made a number of important discoveries about how children acquire Mandarin Chinese, including their interpretation of logical words, and their understanding of expressions called ‘focus’ operators. He has contributed to the development of new research methodology and has expertise in the use of several complex experimental tools, including eye tracking and the brain imaging technique MEG.

Awarded his PhD 2011, Zhou has already published eight papers in high quality international journals, presented 13 refereed papers at conferences, given four invited international talks, and is currently on the editorial boards of two international journals.
Health research in Human Sciences focuses mainly on the Australian School of Advanced Medicine and our programs in allied health.

Australian School of Advanced Medicine

The Australian School of Advanced Medicine has brought together a group of world-class researchers, clinicians and educators to create an innovative competency-based training program with a focus on future trends in medicine.

The Macquarie University Hospital and Australian School of Advanced Medicine are uniquely placed to integrate clinical care, education and medical research in the $250 million health precinct. The new ‘super hospital’ has a focus on evidence-based medicine which is supported by an eminent research group in the adjoining Macquarie University Clinic.

The School provides masters degrees for surgeons and physicians wishing to advance their training in addition to its significant higher degree research program. Scholarships are available.

Areas of specialisation

- Cardiovascular and respiratory neuroscience
- Cellular signalling
- Pharmacology
- Sensory science
- Surgical science
- Vascular science

Facilities

- 3Tesler magnetic resonance imaging machine (3T MRI)
- Australia’s first gamma knife
- Cyclotron for the manufacture of radiopharmaceuticals
- Five research hubs including wet labs
- Macquarie University Clinic
- Macquarie University Hospital
- Outstanding audio-visual technology
- Surgical Skills Centre and Simulation Centre which can be used for crisis resource management

Highlights

Host to the Concentration of Research Excellence in Neuroscience, Vascular Sciences and Surgery which researches the effects of the brain on cardiovascular and respiratory systems, as well as the effects of the cardiovascular system on the brain. The research group includes leading scientists and clinicians, with a strong emphasis on the neurosciences, particularly how the central nervous system controls blood pressure and breathing, blood flow in large arteries and pathology of the cerebral vasculature. Scholarships, which include a generous living allowance and all tuition costs, are available to eligible candidates.

Allied Health programs

Postgraduate studies in the professional health sciences of audiology, clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology, physiotherapy, speech and language pathology offer opportunities for advanced research studies in these fields using on-campus clinical facilities and links with local practitioners including our own hospital on campus.

www.mq.edu.au/health

Education

Education researchers in the Institute of Early Childhood, the School of Education and three research centres provide the focus in this area.

Institute of Early Childhood

The Institute of Early Childhood (IEC) is one of the oldest and largest early childhood teacher education and research departments in Australia. IEC’s academic staff come from a range of professional and disciplinary backgrounds (early childhood education, psychology, sociology, linguistics and arts-based education).

Areas of specialisation

- Early childhood care and education
- Early intervention and social inclusion
- Early language, literacy and numeracy
- International early childhood care and development including early childhood in fragile and emergency contexts
- Pedagogical leadership in early childhood education including cross cultural studies
- Policy studies in early childhood including social and educational change

Facilities

- Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre, a state-of-the-art kindergarten with observation rooms

www.iec.mq.edu.au/research/staff_interests

Highlights

Links with the Concentration of Research Excellence in Social Inclusion.

School of Education

The School of Education has a strong postgraduate focus and offers research programs which cover the spectrum of education across the lifespan from primary and secondary school education, through to research into TAFE, vocational and higher education. The school also offers research programs with a focus on educational leadership and management in schools, and learning in other professional areas such as medicine, science, technology and the environment.

www.mq.edu.au/health
Areas of specialisation

- Curriculum and pedagogy
- Educational leadership
- Higher education
- ICTs in learning and teaching
- Mathematics education and science education
- Multi-literacies in curriculum areas

Facilities

- Macquarie ICT Innovations Centre – A partnership with the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities to research and develop innovations in ICT for education and disseminating best practice to schools
- Teacher Education Learning (TEL) labs provide various information and communications technologies found in schools

www.educ.mq.edu.au/research/staff_interests

Associated Research Centres

- Children and Families Research Centre conducts interdisciplinary research that contributes to knowledge about the learning and development of children and families with a commitment to applying research to policy recommendation and outreach activities within a variety of communities. We train teachers and leaders in early childhood education and investigate the role and influence of the early childhood sector within the educational, socio-cultural and political landscape in Australia, the Asia Pacific Region and internationally.
  www.iec.mq.edu.au/research/cfrc

- The Macquarie University E-Learning Centre of Excellence is an internationally recognised research centre in educational technology and a leader in the field of learning design with expertise in education IT infrastructure including identity management, technical standards and systems integration. Current software developments include LAMS, MAMS/AAF, RAMP and ASK-OSS.
  www.melcoe.mq.edu.au

- Established in 1975, the Macquarie University Special Education Centre (MUSEC) continues to be a leader in researching and developing evidence-based instructional and behaviour management procedures for teaching in special education. Research products include:
  – MUSEC Briefings (www.musec.mq.edu.au/co_brief.aspx)
  – MULTILIT Program (www.musec.mq.edu.au/co_multilit.aspx)
  – STAAR Program (www.musec.mq.edu.au/community.aspx)
  www.musec.mq.edu.au

Language

Language research is concentrated in the Department of Linguistics.

Department of Linguistics

Macquarie’s Department of Linguistics is Australia’s largest and most diverse. It has a superior record in attracting and graduating research candidates from Australia and from a wide range of countries internationally. Such candidates may be studying on campus, in distance or online mode, or through blended modes of learning.
Areas of specialisation
• Applied linguistics and language in education
• Language in social life
• Language sciences
• Speech and hearing sciences
• Systemic functional linguistics
• Translation and interpreting

Facilities
• Comprehensive resource of language and discourse-analytical software
• Excellent laboratory facilities for speech research
• First laboratory in the southern hemisphere for functional brain imaging using MEG
• Purpose-built clinical facilities in audiology and speech pathology
• Simultaneous interpreting facilities
• World’s first child magnetoencephalography (MEG) facility

Highlights
• Host to the Concentration of Research Excellence in Language Sciences which brings a combination of theoretical, experimental and computational approaches to the investigation of live issues in the production and comprehension of languages across the human life span. Central issues include how human language is processed in the brain, how language develops in normal children and the nature of language disorders in children and adults.
• Research in linguistics at Macquarie received a rating of 4 – ‘performance above world standard’ – in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2010 initiative.

www.ling.mq.edu.au/research/interests.htm

Mind
The mind is explored in the Institute of Human Cognition and Brain Science and the Department of Psychology.

Institute of Human Cognition and Brain Science
The Institute of Human Cognition and Brain Science is home to the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders (CCD) bringing together key research leaders from Macquarie University, the University of New South Wales and the University of Western Australia, and numerous international partners. The CCD builds on Macquarie’s outstanding ERA rankings as the top cognitive science group in Australia.

Areas of specialisation
• CCD focuses on basic processes of cognition – language acquisition, reading and spelling, understanding and producing spoken language, face recognition, thinking, memory and attention – using results to achieve greater understanding of cognitive disorders such as schizophrenia, prosopagnosia, autism, dyslexia, aphasia and specific language impairment.

Facilities
• Seventeen laboratories fitted out with state-of-the-art equipment used for high performance computational modeling, event-related potentials (ERP), eye-tracking, language acquisition, hypnosis and the study of action.
• The KIT-Macquarie Brain Research Laboratory has the southern hemisphere’s only magnetoencephalography (MEG) system. The adult MEG system is now complemented with the world’s first MEG system designed to study cognitive processes in children.

Highlights
• Host to the Concentration of Research Excellence in Cognitive Science
• Links with the Concentration of Research Excellence in Language Sciences
• Research in psychology and cognitive sciences at Macquarie received the highest possible rating of 5 – ‘performance well above world standard’ – in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2010 initiative.

www.mq.edu.au/departments/ihcbs

Department of Psychology
The Department of Psychology is research-intensive with an international reputation for research in experimental, social, organisational, and clinical psychology. It offers outstanding training for professional psychologists in areas of clinical psychology, clinical neuropsychology and organisational psychology. The neuropsychology program is one of only five such programs offered in Australia, and candidates in all programs are given exciting placement opportunities during their training.

Areas of specialisation
• Emotion and mental health
• Neuropsychology and neuropharmacology
• Organisational and applied psychology
• Perception and cognition
• Social, developmental and personality psychology
• Theory, methodology and evolutionary psychology

Facilities
• Emotional Health Clinic
• Rod Power Psychology Clinic
• State-of-the-art research and training facilities including a flight simulator, a driving simulator, motion capture laboratory, perception experiment laboratory, and neuropharmacology laboratories

Highlights
• Centre for Emotional Health focuses on understanding, treating and preventing emotional distress, as well as promoting positive emotional health. Research interests of team members focus on emotional difficulties across the lifespan. The team has developed novel interventions that have been adopted worldwide through its research clinic.
• Host to the Concentration of Research Excellence in Emotional Health.
Research in psychology and cognitive sciences at Macquarie received the highest possible rating of 5 – ‘performance well above world standard’ – in the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2010 initiative.

www.psy.mq.edu.au/research.php

Combined research and coursework programs in psychology

The combined degree provides training in both doctoral level research and professional psychological practice. It is anticipated that part-time teaching will be available to candidates enrolled in this program. Note that these degrees are developed as combined research/coursework programs, and it is not possible for a candidate enrolled in a Combined PhD/Coursework Masters in Psychology to take out the masters degree separately.

• PhD/Master of Clinical Neuropsychology
• PhD/Master of Clinical Psychology
• PhD/Master of Organisational Psychology

Admission information

Admission requirements: An Honours degree in psychology at first-class level, normally expected to have a scholarship or equivalent, acceptance for entry to coursework masters, availability of a suitable and willing PhD supervisor.

It is only possible to admit a limited number of candidates. In selecting candidates, particular consideration will be given to information supplied on the supplementary information sheet. Applicants for the combined degree must complete a psychology personal supplementary information form in addition to the higher degree research application form. The form is available at www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/forms

Length of candidature

Four years full-time or three years full-time plus two years part-time under specified conditions.

Attendance

Candidates enrolled in the combined degree will substitute the Research Training in Psychology units (see further information in the ‘Units of Study’ section) in place of the masters research thesis; and will be required to spread the coursework units as well as the PhD research over four years. Candidates will be required to attend and present their research at the Faculty Research Festival each year they are enrolled. Requirements, unit descriptions and other details of the coursework component of the combined degrees are contained in the Psychology Coursework Handbook.
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