

2026 Research student guide



Your University

We are a university for the future – focused on making an impact in our world and yours. We are built on the proven legacies of the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide with an ambition to create lasting careers and opportunities for contemporary learners and global citizens, with innovative research that shapes society.

adelaideuni.edu.au



Member of the Group of Eight

Australia's leading research-intensive universities



Ranked #82 in the world

And 8th nationally in the 2026 QS World University Rankings

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Kaurna, Boandik, and Barngarla First Nations Peoples and their Elders past and present, who are the Traditional Owners of the lands that are home to our campuses across Adelaide and South Australia.



Message from the Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation, Professor Anton Middelberg FTSE FNAI

A research degree is more than a qualification; it's your opportunity to make a unique and meaningful contribution to the world. At Adelaide University, we support your ambitions with world-leading researchers to mentor you, flexible programs to suit your commitments, and strategic industry connections to link your ideas with real-world challenges.

In 2026, Adelaide University opens in the global top 100, ranked equal 82nd in the QS World University Rankings. It also becomes the newest member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight leading research-intensive universities. Our research is founded on excellence and guided by a comprehensive and ambitious strategy spanning discovery, translation, and impact.

This strategy drives engaged research and innovation across areas shaping our world; from creative and cultural inquiry, societal wellbeing, and national security to sustainable development and breakthroughs in food, agriculture and wine. Graduate researchers are deeply embedded in these environments, contributing to a collaborative experience that prepares them to learn and lead with purpose.

Whether your interests lie in healthcare, the environment, technology, science, creative and cultural pursuits, or beyond, our distinguished academic qualifications will help unlock your research breakthroughs, professional networks and thought leadership.

We look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide University.

Launching Adelaide University in 2026



Adelaide University is Australia's new university for the future, ranked in the global top 100.* Purpose-built and future-focused, it is a place for outstanding educators, researchers, thinkers, innovators, and entrepreneurs.

Education and research can empower communities. Adelaide University is transforming teaching and learning to meet the needs of contemporary learners and global citizens – establishing South Australia as a hub for progress and innovation through partnered research that is nation-critical and globally relevant.

**Ranked equal 82nd, 2026 QS World University Rankings*





Our research ambitions

We strive to be a global powerhouse of research excellence as part of Australia's Group of Eight, accelerating research impact through partnerships and collaborations. Our ambitions include:



Global recognition as Australia's leading for-purpose research university.



Research partner of choice and Australia's most industry-engaged university.



Destination of choice for the best global researchers, innovators, thinkers and entrepreneurs in our priority areas.



Australia's most connected university, partnering with the communities we serve and an engine for innovation, productivity and growth.

Signature research themes

Adelaide University's approach to research training will be nation-leading, with a dedicated Adelaide University Graduate Research School to support our research students.

In collaboration with industry and the community, Adelaide University will deliver world-class research through five signature themes – each grounded in excellence and focused on real-world impact.

adelaideuni.edu.au/research/



Creative and Cultural

We activate transformative communities of culture and demonstrate excellence in research collaboration and creativity.

Defence and National Security

Adelaide University anticipates the needs of defence and national security and responds through accelerating and translating ethical, multidisciplinary research into impactful outcomes in partnership with government, industry, and other academic institutions.

Food, Agriculture and Wine

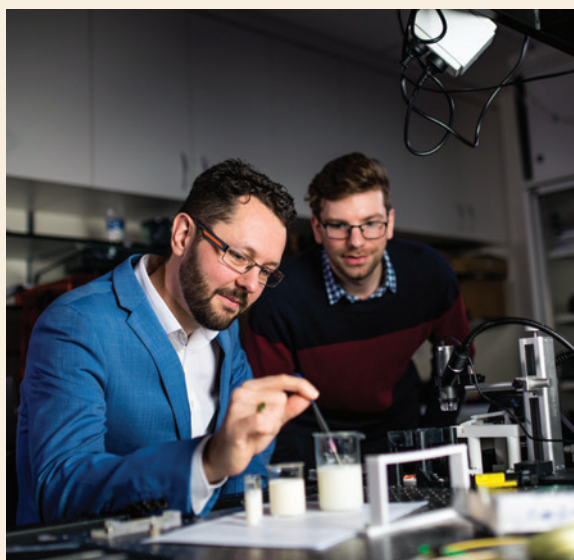
Partnered research and collaborative change that drives the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Australia's food, agriculture and wine industries to responsibly ensure the wellbeing of present and future generations, communities and environments.

Personal and Societal Health

Through research excellence and partnerships, we discover, innovate and implement advances that promote equitable opportunities in human health, education and the creation of thriving societies.

Sustainable Green Transition

Through research excellence and impactful partnerships, keeping climate change and biodiversity front of mind, we develop and bring into action innovative solutions that deliver a sustainable society and economy while caring for Country, and protecting and restoring the environment.



Our campuses

Adelaide University proudly holds the largest campus footprint in South Australia. Each of our campuses has something unique to offer, whether that's historic buildings, high-tech labs, swimming pools, farms, a planetarium, a supercomputer or even a working winery.

adelaideuni.edu.au/life-at-adelaide/campuses/

Adelaide City Campus

Our city campus weaves through Adelaide's central business district, surrounded by cafes, restaurants, bars, galleries and gardens. Its east and west precincts have specialised facilities, including entrepreneurial hubs, simulated health suites, space labs and creative studios. Enjoy our rock-climbing wall, pool and gym facilities, along with easy access to public transport, nearby parking and bike storage.

Magill Campus

Tucked in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide, just seven kilometres from the city centre, Magill is home to cutting-edge research labs, a theatre and industry-standard TV and radio stations. Catch a bus easily, or drive and park your car at the picturesque campus.

Mawson Lakes Campus

An innovative hub that's home to global space, technology and defence companies, you will find robotics and engineering labs, flight simulators, and the awe-inspiring Adelaide Planetarium at Mawson Lakes Campus. It's just 12 kilometres from the city, with plenty of on-campus parking.

Waite Campus

This leafy campus in the Adelaide foothills specialises in world-class agriculture and wine research. It has stunning gardens, including the Waite Arboretum, and a commercial-grade teaching winery. You can take advantage of on-campus parking or catch the bus with ease.

Roseworthy Campus

This hub for animal and agricultural research is 50 kilometres north of Adelaide, with an equine health centre, aquatic reserve and livestock farm. Enjoy on-campus parking, meals at Maitidli Cafe and a swimming pool – all within reach of South Australia's premier wine region.

Whyalla Campus

As the largest regional university campus in South Australia, Whyalla Campus is the major tertiary education centre for the state's north-western regions. Our 22-hectare site includes an on-campus residential village, providing affordable and modern student accommodation.

Mount Gambier Campus

Set in the scenic Limestone Coast region, Adelaide University's Mount Gambier Campus offers contemporary learning facilities within South Australia's largest regional city. As a major tertiary education centre for South Australia's south-east and Victoria's south-west, our campus provides all the conveniences of a city education whilst surrounded by the natural environment.



Our degrees

Unlock a world of opportunities with an Adelaide University research degree. Deepen your knowledge in a specialised area and make a unique contribution to the world around you. You can generate new insights, spark innovation or even transform your findings into a breakthrough discovery.

At Adelaide University, we value accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that every research degree student – regardless of background or circumstance – can seize the life-changing opportunities offered by research education at one of Australia's leading research universities.

Explore our core research degrees:

- Doctor of Philosophy, Duration 3 to 4 years full-time
- Master of Philosophy, Duration 2 years full-time
- Master of Research, Duration 1.5 years full-time

adelaideuni.edu.au/research/research-degrees

Doctor of Philosophy

Transform ideas into real-world impact with our flagship research degree.

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a distinguished academic qualification and Adelaide University's flagship research degree. Whether you aspire towards a research-focused career in academia or a role in industry underpinned by research expertise, this degree empowers you to deepen your knowledge, break new ground, and contribute something unique to our world.

This is a self-directed degree that does not involve classes or coursework. Under the expert supervision of world-class researchers, you will complete progress milestones and take part in a comprehensive research and innovation training program – one that offers exciting professional and career development opportunities matched to your research goals. Your studies will culminate in a substantial thesis or a creative project with an accompanying exegesis. Additionally, you will complete an oral examination of your thesis or creative work before a panel of examiners.

Throughout this process, you will gain expertise in independent research, apply creative thinking to tackle complex challenges, and refine your ability to communicate intricate ideas to diverse audiences.

Master of Philosophy

Become an expert in your field and kickstart your future in research.

Our Master of Philosophy empowers you to conduct high-quality, independent research on a topic you're passionate about. Along the way, you will gain research expertise that's highly sought after in both industry and academia.

Under the guidance of an experienced and supportive research supervisor, you will plan, design and complete your own independent research project on a topic you're passionate about.

Similar to the PhD, the Master of Philosophy is self-directed, with no classes or coursework requirements. You will complete progress milestones and a comprehensive research and innovation training program which gives access to exciting professional and career development opportunities, matched to your research goals.

Your studies will culminate with the development of a substantial thesis or creative work and accompanying exegesis. You will also complete an oral examination of your thesis or creative work before a panel of examiners.

Master of Research

Advance your career while making a meaningful impact in your field.

Our Master of Research will equip you with the knowledge and skills to undertake high-quality research that makes a tangible impact.

Designed for those who want to build on their current qualifications – and become an expert in their field – this degree combines coursework with a research project.

The first part of your studies is designed to help you develop a broad base of research skills. In this coursework component, you will explore key methodologies and approaches to research, including topics such as methods, communication and engagement.

In the remainder of your studies, you will put this learning into practice. Under the guidance of an experienced and supportive research supervisor, you will plan, design and complete your own independent research project on a topic of interest and relevance to your field.

Scholarships

Adelaide University is committed to ensuring students from all walks of life can access higher education. We understand undertaking a research program is a substantial commitment and costs are a concern for many students. This is why we offer a range of government, industry, philanthropic and university-funded scholarships to support you during your studies.

You can apply for a range of scholarship types, including major and top-up scholarships, research internship scholarships, travel scholarships, and more. These scholarships provide a variety of benefits and allowances, including living stipends and tuition waivers.



Applying for scholarships

Before applying for a scholarship, you must have completed an (online) interview and obtained written confirmation of supervisory support from your proposed supervisor. We also advise carefully reviewing any eligibility criteria for your chosen scholarship prior to submitting your application.

Applications for major scholarships occur primarily through the main scholarship rounds. Top-up and other opportunities are typically offered separately and require a separate and specific application.

Please note that most scholarships are highly competitive, and opportunities in the scholarship rounds may be limited.

How to apply

At Adelaide University, we enrich every research degree student's journey by providing personalised support and outstanding supervision, mentoring, resources and opportunities.

Our goal is to create engaging communities to ensure every research degree student feels valued, understood and part of an inspiring local and global research community.

Follow the steps below to start your research degree journey at Adelaide University or find more information on our website.

adelaideuni.edu.au/study/how-to-apply/research

STEP 1

Check your eligibility

Academic entry requirements

Check that you meet the academic entry requirements for your chosen program.

If you do not meet the entry requirements to qualify for one of our research degrees, you may like to consider an alternative pathway via our research-focused Graduate Certificates. Find more information on our website.

English language proficiency requirements

English is the language of instruction at Adelaide University, and all research degree students are required to be proficient in English comprehension and expression.

If you are an international student, you will also need to meet the Genuine Student requirement and financial capacity requirement.

To find out more about international entry requirements, including English language requirements, visit:

adelaideuni.edu.au/study/international-students/how-to-apply/entry-requirements

STEP 2

Review scholarship eligibility criteria

Adelaide University offers a wide range of funding opportunities for both Australian and international research degree students.

Most scholarship rounds are highly competitive, and opportunities may be limited. Many scholarship applications need to be submitted in tandem with your application to study a research degree. It's important that you review any scholarship eligibility criteria carefully before submitting a request for supervision or a formal application.

Please visit our website for more information:

adelaideuni.edu.au/research/research-degrees/research-scholarships





STEP 3

Find a supervisor or project

Finding a supervisor

While your academic credentials will determine your eligibility for a research degree, your likelihood of receiving an offer from Adelaide University will also be determined by:

- the alignment of your interests or your own project idea with the research interests and experience of potential supervisors
- the capacity of supervisors to accept you as a research degree student.

Before applying for admission and/or scholarship, you will need to complete an interview and obtain written confirmation of supervisory support from an eligible principal supervisor.

Please visit our website for support in finding your supervisor:

adelaideuni.edu.au/research/research-degrees/find-a-supervisor

Finding a research project

You can choose from the hundreds of research projects listed on our website. Once you've found a project that interests you, or developed your own research project idea, please contact the relevant supervisor to let them know. The supervisor will likely ask you to send relevant documentation, such as a CV, your transcripts and your English test results (if applicable) to determine if you are a suitable match.

Please visit our website to find a research project:

adelaideuni.edu.au/research/research-degrees/research-projects

STEP 4

Apply online

Please make sure you have all documentation ready when submitting your application.

You can save your application at any time during the application process, but remember to submit your application once you have completed the steps and uploaded all the required documents. We are unable to assess incomplete applications. Any missing documentation will impact our ability to assess your application for admission and/or scholarship.

International students

For application to a research degree, you can apply via an Education Agent, but you are not required to do so. Adelaide University has a wide network of Education Agents around the world that can assist you with the preparation and submission of your application, as well as your student visa application. Please visit our website to find out more:

adelaideuni.edu.au/study/international-students/find-an-education-agent

STEP 5

Accept your offer and enrol

Accepting your offer

- Complete and return all forms as required.
- Once all documentation has been returned, reviewed and checked, we will finalise your acceptance.
- If you are an international student, a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) will be issued for the purpose of applying for your student visa.
- If you are a domestic student, the enrolment process will commence once your acceptance is finalised.

Enrolment

Once your acceptance has been finalised, you can begin your enrolment. You will be sent an email to commence the enrolment process once we receive all required information and documentation. Please follow the instructions outlined in the email to commence the enrolment process.

International students

Visit the Australian Government's Department of Home Affairs website to find out more about applying for a student visa:

immi.homeaffairs.gov.au

Further enquiries

Adelaide University
SA 5005 Australia

**Adelaide University Graduate
Research School (AUGRS)**

research.degrees@study.adelaideuni.edu.au

adelaideuni.edu.au

facebook.com/adelaideuni

linkedin.com/school/adelaideuni

youtube.com/@AdelaideUniAustralia

instagram.com/adelaideuni

tiktok.com/@adelaideuni

The content in this publication is for general information only and Adelaide University makes no representation about its accuracy, completeness or suitability for any purpose. It is subject to change, and you can find updated information on our website at **adelaideuni.edu.au**

Printed July 2025
RES-004