

Advanced Research specialisation

This specialisation is designed to provide students who have already undertaken substantial prior studies in a relevant area with the opportunity to focus on a significant research project in a related area.

Transfer between specialisations within this program is not possible.

Program objectives

General objectives

Successful completion of this program will enable graduates to:

- identify, interpret and evaluate major issues of contemporary theory and practice in their discipline area
- comprehend and evaluate developments in a chosen discipline area and critically examine the relationships between such developments and contemporary theory
- apply a knowledge of the principles and ethics of research within their chosen discipline area
- identify research topics and undertake research using appropriate methodology and current techniques
- report and publish research outcomes.

Specialisation Objectives

Applied Research specialisation

Successful completion of the program will enable a graduate to:

- extend the knowledge and research expertise of students entering the specialisation with a three year degree
- demonstrate an enhanced understanding of a selected area of science
- identify, interpret and evaluate major issues in contemporary theory and practice of scientific research in the disciplines within the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences
- apply current research techniques and methodology to the pursuit of specific research goals.

Psychology Research specialisation

Successful completion of the program will enable a graduate to:

- extend their knowledge, skills, and research expertise in the discipline of psychology
- apply the specialised knowledge and skill in a range of contexts gained in the program to psychology with a high degree of proficiency in research, professional practice, or in pursuit of further learning
- meet the academic requirements for Associate Membership of the Australian Psychological Society or provisional registration as a psychologist with the Psychologists Board of Australia
- demonstrate awareness of and apply a wide range of research methods and the ethical and social responsibilities of a practising scientist planning and executing substantial elements of research
- analyse and synthesise complex information and apply established theories as part of undertaking research-oriented careers or progressing to higher level studies in psychology

Australian Qualifications Framework

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a single national, comprehensive system of qualifications offered by higher education institutions (including universities), vocational education and training institutions and secondary schools. Each AQF qualification has a set of descriptors which define the type and complexity of knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills that a graduate who has been awarded that qualifi

- acceptance will be subject to the availability of, and endorsement by, a USQ supervisor.

Master of Science (Research) (Advanced Research)

To be eligible for admission to the Master of Science (Research) (Advanced Research), applicants must have either:

- completed a four-year degree in the related field of study awarded by an Australian university or equivalent, with a GPA of 5.0 out of 7.0, or equivalent, or a GPA of 5.5 out of 7.0 for the last 2 full years of the degree in a relevant discipline

or

- completed a three-year degree at an Australian university or equivalent and have successfully completed a coursework masters, with a minimum GPA of 5.0 out of 7.0, or equivalent score, in a relevant discipline

or

- equivalent qualification and work experience in the related field of study as determined by the program coordinator

and

- acceptance will be subject to the availability of, and endorsement by, a USQ supervisor.

Pre-requisite Knowledge

Eligible students who are not considered to have sufficient previous knowledge may be required to undertake a limited number of additional relevant courses. All students must discuss their enrolment pattern with the Program Coordinator prior to nominating courses on their enrolment form.

All students are required to satisfy the applicable [English language requirements](#).

If you do not meet the English language requirements you may apply to study a University-approved [English language program](#). On successful completion of the English language program, you may be admitted to an award program.

Program fees

Domestic full fee paying place

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through 1 72.079 36511 Tf1 0 0 1 59.(w)Tj1 0 0 1T1 72.079 3651210 0-

citizenship and transcripts of all previous academic study. It is with this documentation that USQ can determine a student's eligibility for a RTS place. Students who are eligible for RTS are:

- those who have not consumed a RTS allocation previously;
- those who have already utilised the RTS to successfully completed a research program. Once a student completes a higher degree research program full entitlements of the RTS are restored.

If a student's RTS entitlement expires before they have completed their program they will be required to pay full tuition fees for the remainder of the program. As there may be limited RTS places available, some students may be required to pay fees for all or part of their program. The Office of Research Graduate Studies will advise students of their eligibility for an RTS place.

Program structure

Applied Research specialisation

There are 12 units in the program. There are four coursework units which will include a research training course. Courses are normally at level 3 or above and are selected in consultation with the supervisor to reflect additional training complementary to the area of research to be undertaken. The research training course will consist of [SCI4405 Research Practice and Ethics](#) or [HSC8050 Research Methodology for the Human Sciences](#) or [ENG8001 Engineering Research Methods](#) or equivalent (as approved by the Program Coordinator).

The remaining 8-unit research project will be undertaken in consultation with an approved supervisor. The first research project course [SCI9012 Master of Science Research Project B](#) is ev

of a USQ Research Centre. Details of current research programs and potential supervisors can be found on the [Research Centre](#) webpage.

The emphasis of the program will be on developing the appropriate knowledge and skills to undertake independent research and professional practice. Accordingly, a major component of the program will be a supervised research project.

There are 12 units in the program. There is one unit of coursework research training and an 11-unit research project. Progress in the research courses is monitored via research reports co-ordinated by the Office of Research and Higher Degrees. In addition two of the research project courses ([SCI9012 Master of Science Research Project B](#) and [SCI9013 Master of Science Research Project C](#)) are formally evaluated. In the case of SCI9012 evaluation is by both a confirmation seminar and written confirmation proposal and in the case of SCI9013 by a progress seminar. The student will prepare a thesis based on independently conducted research. To successfully complete the thesis, students will be required to select a research topic, carry out supervised research on the chosen topic using an appropriate research method and present and defend the results.

The research training course will consist of [SCI4405 Research Practice and Ethics](#) or [HSC8050 Research Methodology for the Human Sciences](#) for the Human Sciences or [ENG8001 Engineering Research Methods](#) or equivalent (as approved by the Program Coordinator).

Available disciplines/qualified specialisations/majors

- Agricultural Science
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Data Science
- Environmental Science
- Mathematics
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Physical Sciences
- Spatial Science
- Sport and Exercise
- Statistics

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 2 years (full-time) or 4 years (part-time) to complete this program.

Residential schools

The Psychology Research specialisation may be studied externally, however compulsory attendance at the scheduled residential schools will be required on-campus in Toowoomba or Ipswich during the first year of the program. The number of days required at each residential school will depend on enrolment mode (number of courses taken per semester).

Elective course options within the Applied Research and Advanced Research specialisations may have residential schools and students should seek confirmation of the requirements when selecting their electives.

Exit points

Students enrolled in the Applied Research specialisation, who have successfully completed four coursework units and wish to exit without completing the program, may seek, with approval of the Program Coordinator, to exit via the [Graduate Certificate of Science](#). Students must successfully complete this specialisation prior to application for entry to the PhD program.

Students enrolled in the Psychology Research specialisation must successfully complete this specialisation prior to application for entry to the PhD.

PhD Transfer

Eligible students may apply for transfer to the PhD or [Doctor of Applied Science](#) program following satisfactory completion of [SCI9014 Master of Science Research Project D](#) and subject to support from their supervisor. As such, a transfer will involve an extension of the scope of the existing approved Master of Science (Research) project, any such transfer will require the evaluation of a full confirmation proposal and seminar. The material will be assessed via a Faculty confirmation panel. As a result, a recommendation may be made to the University

Footnotes

^ One unit of credit

~ Pass/Fail course

& Required for Spatial Science students and must be completed satisfactorily during the first semester of study

Courses will normally be at level 3 or above and are selected in consultation with the project supervisor and approval of the Program Coordinator.

Sport and Exercise: the recommended coursework courses are [SES8006 Adv](#)

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[Delivery](#) (compulsory residential school for external students) and [SES8008 Advanced Anatomy and Ph](#)