Build your career with a research higher degree at one of Australia’s leading architecture schools
The School of Architecture at The University of Queensland offers both Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees by research. Such programs are described as Research Higher Degrees (RHD). The School has research strengths in architectural design, indigenous culture, the history and theory of architecture, and sustainable design, and invites outstanding prospective candidates in these areas.

The focus of all research degrees at The University of Queensland is on the development of students as independent researchers, making a significant, original, and comprehensive contribution to knowledge in architecture. The School of Architecture is highly selective, accepting exceptional applicants from a range of disciplinary backgrounds. While we offer relatively few places each year, we are very interested in applicants whose research interests align with ours.
Why should an architect or architecture graduate be interested in a research higher degree?

The School has seen RHD candidates enter from every level of professional architectural experience – from recent graduates, to registered project architects, to established late career professionals. All have been motivated to pursue a sustained architectural research project, in a structured and supervised research environment, with access to outstanding support and advice. Specific reasons why a PhD or MPhil may be an attractive option for architectural graduates and professionals include:

**Career change:** A research higher degree is the entry-level qualification for an academic career, in architecture as in other fields. A career change from architect to academic is one possible outcome of RHD study.

**Solving problems relevant to the profession, and the world:** a PhD or MPhil is not only abstract and scholarly – it can also set out to solve specific problems, and have practical applications and impacts in the wider world. Defining and solving a challenge for the architecture profession, or using architectural expertise to address a larger problem for society, can be a powerful motivator for RHD study.

**Professional development:** undertaking an extended, structured program of research on an issue of relevance to architectural practice can be seen as a form of professional development: building expertise, specialising knowledge, and expanding disciplinary breadth on specific architectural questions.

**Developing transferable skills:** higher degree study develops high level skills in critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, and strategy. These skills are highly transferrable, and useful not only in a research context but for the practice of architecture and the successful management of an architectural business.

**Pursuing curiosity:** the majority of RHD projects in architecture in Australia begin as ‘curiosity driven’ ideas, derived by candidates themselves, in association with the interests of their advisor and School. The opportunity to pursue intellectual ideas for an extended period can be an enormously fulfilling experience.

**Making good use of the down time:** with the profession so profoundly affected by economic cycles, the university sector can offer excellent opportunities even when economic times are difficult. Coming through an economic slump with improved expertise, training, and specialisation can be a sound business move as well as personally satisfying.
There are two established, world class research centres within the School. The Aboriginal Environments Research Centre (AERC), led by Professor Paul Memmott, is a multidisciplinary centre for research and teaching into the culture, environment and architecture of Australian Indigenous peoples. The Centre for Architecture Theory Criticism and History (ATCH), led by Professor John Macarthur, offers a rigorous and collegial environment for research into the history of buildings and architectural concepts, and the past and present culture of architecture in relation to the visual arts, design, philosophy, cultural studies, and urbanisation.

There are two emerging centres in the School: ROAD – Research on Architectural Design, led by Professor Luis Feduchi, focuses on research in and through architectural design; and the Centre for Sustainable Design (CSD), led by Dr Marci Webster-Mannison, applies integrative thinking to the complex contemporary challenges facing our built environment.
Why choose UQ Architecture for your research higher degree?

**University context:** The University of Queensland, Australia, is one of the world’s premier teaching and research institutions. It is consistently ranked in the top 100 in the four leading independent global rankings.

**School research culture:** The School of Architecture maintains an active research culture, and a collegial environment for research collaboration. The School is highly respected nationally and internationally, and was ranked among the top three architecture schools in the country by the 2012 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) rankings. RHD candidates participate in a lively research environment including seminars, public lectures, colloquia, and conferences.

**Advisory expertise:** UQ Architecture is home to some of the most esteemed architectural thinkers and scholars in Australasia, and one of the largest concentrations of research-focussed staff. Research in the School covers a wide range of areas and methods, addressing the physical, social and historical aspects of architecture, including research by design.

**Scholarships:** As a research-intensive university, UQ receives a generous allocation of APA scholarships from the commonwealth government. These are highly competitive, and open only to domestic applicants. Other scholarships are also available, both to domestic and international applicants. For more information on research scholarships see [http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/scholarships-and-fees](http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/scholarships-and-fees).
Tuition fee waiver: Australian and New Zealand applicants are exempt from paying tuition fees for all higher degree research. International students may be required to pay tuition fees, but can apply for competitive scholarships to cover these and living expenses.

Other financial assistance: The School offers confirmed RHD candidates a research support allowance of $5000 for a PhD ($3000 for MPhil) towards direct research costs such as fieldwork, conference presentation, and professional editing costs. UQ also has competitive funding programs to assist with travel and other costs.

Facilities: Each research candidate is provided with a dedicated desk, computer, office facilities, and access to high level supervision expertise. There are also computer labs and a fabrication workshop available to research candidates. IT support, printing facilities and pastoral support are all provided by the University.

Size - not too big, not too small: There are twenty-five current Research Higher Degree candidates in the School, and this relatively small and intimate cohort allows individual attention to each candidate, and the development of a strong collegial research culture.

Interdisciplinarity: The School encourages interdisciplinary research, including cross-enrolment or cross-supervision between different Schools at UQ, and admits research students from a diverse range of disciplinary backgrounds – it is not necessary to have graduated from a degree in architecture to undertake research in the School.

Collegiality and collaboration: Research projects and publications in the School are frequently collaborative, and the research activities of the School are broad. Projects are driven by the interests and work of the staff, who undertake both pure and applied research.

Teaching opportunities: Operating within a School of architecture, RHD candidates are connected to the education of practicing architects, and there are often opportunities to teach and be involved in the professional and undergraduate architecture degree programs.
Hot topics: specific PhD and MPhil projects seeking candidates

We are interested in receiving applicants for the specific projects outlined here. They are listed alphabetically by the advisor’s family name. Longer descriptions of each project, plus additional topics, are available on the School website. Other related topics may be considered by negotiation, but prospective candidates are expected to relate their project directly to the existing work and interests of a staff member.

Urbanism and urban design discourse in the latter half of the twentieth century  
Advisor: Dr Mathew Aitchison

Prefabricated housing  
Advisor: Dr Mathew Aitchison

India imprint: development guidelines and architectural prototypes both in urban and rural areas of the Indian subcontinent  
Advisor: Prof Luis Feduchi

Type-site museum: an architectural response to the need for museums to exemplify cultural traditions  
Advisor: Prof Luis Feduchi

Campus architecture: architecture, planning and landscape research and design issues concerning university campuses  
Advisor: Prof Luis Feduchi

Mapping Brisbane’s Aboriginal place heritage  
Advisor: Dr Kelly Greenop

Migrant experiences of place in Brisbane  
Advisor: Dr Kelly Greenop

Evaluating urban Indigenous housing  
Advisors: Dr Kelly Greenop and Dr Tim O’Rourke

Extending the reach of museums and exhibitions through design  
Advisor: Dr Pedro Guedes

Nineteenth century innovations and inventions in building technologies relevant today  
Advisor: Dr Pedro Guedes

Colonial architectures and what they learnt from each other, indigenous practices and unfamiliar climates  
Advisor: Dr Pedro Guedes

The architectural expression and construction of science  
Advisor: Prof Sandra Kaji-O’Grady

Atmospheres and air  
Advisor: Prof Sandra Kaji-O’Grady

Heritage, conservation, and the sustainable management of complex industrial landscapes  
Advisor: Dr Chris Landorf

Architectural practice and management: the future of the architectural profession and alternative models of practice  
Advisor: Dr Chris Landorf

Building histories of Queensland architecture  
Advisor: Prof John Macarthur
Architecture as an art: aesthetic theory, taste and the institutions of the arts
Advisor: Prof John Macarthur

Picturesque Australasia
Advisor: Prof John Macarthur

Contemporary Queensland architecture
Advisors: Dr Silvia Micheli & A/Prof Antony Moulis

Ernesto Nathan Rogers 1909-69
Advisor: Dr Silvia Micheli

‘Drawing out’ design: architectural design process
Advisors: Elizabeth Musgrave & Doug Neale

Aboriginal housing design and energy consumption
Advisor: Dr Tim O’Rourke

Race, place, taste and architecture in the colonial context
Advisor: Dr Deborah van der Plaat

Cosmopolitan colonies and their architectural consequences: the ethnic diversity of Queensland as an alternative to colonial/nationalist paradigms
Advisor: Dr Deborah van der Plaat

Gender and architectural historiography
Advisor: Dr Deborah van der Plaat

Energy impacts of house form and street orientation in the sub-tropical city
Advisor: Prof Peter Skinner

Design and construction of new urban housing models for Brisbane
Advisor: Prof Peter Skinner

The granny flat: a social and architectural history
Advisor: Dr Naomi Stead

Experimental writing in architecture: place, setting, critique
Advisor: Dr Naomi Stead

Amateur architectural appreciation: reading popular architectural critique, post-occupancy evaluation and first hand accounts of life in buildings
Advisor: Dr Naomi Stead

Urban agriculture in and around Australian cities: exploration of the potential for the integration of agriculture and urban development
Advisor: Dr Marci Webster-Mannison

Affordable housing: evidence-based design approaches to the provision of a bioclimatically responsive, affordable housing appropriate to the residential market in South East Queensland
Advisor: Dr Marci Webster-Mannison

Solar and night radiant systems: evidence-based research
Advisor: Dr Marci Webster-Mannison

Mid-twentieth century modernism of the South East Queensland region
Advisor: Mr Andrew Wilson
Frequently Asked Questions

What are the entry requirements?
Entry to the PhD is normally on the basis of (one of):
- a bachelor’s degree with honours class IIA or better from UQ or equivalent elsewhere
- a research master’s degree
- a coursework master’s degree with at least a 25% research component and an overall grade point average equivalent to 5.0 on the 7-point UQ scale
- a bachelor’s degree plus relevant research experience

For the MPhil, entry can be given on the basis of honours class IIB or better. Students can apply to transfer from the MPhil to the PhD after the first 12 months.

see also:
www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees

How long does it take?
A PhD is usually three years full time, or six years part time
An MPhil is usually eighteen months full time, or three years part time

What are the English language proficiency requirements?
An exceptional level of written and spoken English communication is needed for RHD study at UQ. A minimum IELTS of 6.5 and writing score of 6 is required, and samples of written work will be assessed as part of the admission process.

See also:
www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/english-language-proficiency-requirements

Do I have to live in Brisbane?
Students are expected to spend at least some of their candidature located in Brisbane. The exact amount is negotiable with the Advisory team according to the stage of candidature and nature of the project. Remote students are not, however, eligible to receive a scholarship.

When can I apply?
Domestic students can apply for admission at any time, but there are four scholarship rounds per year, usually in January, April, July, and October.
How do I apply?
All applications need:
• An initial Expression of Interest sent to
  the School of Architecture Postgraduate
  Coordinator and Postgraduate
  Administrative Officer
  (see Contacts on back page)
• A research proposal – developed in
  agreement with a proposed principal
  advisor
• Support materials – CV, academic
  transcripts, evidence of English language
  proficiency
• A completed application – this is by
  invitation only

See also:
www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/how-to-apply
More information
The School’s website gives information on its research priorities and strengths:
www.architecture.uq.edu.au

More information on higher degree research in the School of Architecture is given at:
www.architecture.uq.edu.au/rhd

Information on staff in the School and their research supervision interests is given at:
www.architecture.uq.edu.au/our-people

The UQ Graduate School website provides additional information on the general UQ rules and policies:
www.uq.edu.au/grad-school

The Graduate School website also provides information on scholarships and fees:
www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/scholarships-and-fees

Contacts
Postgraduate Coordinator:
Dr Naomi Stead
n.stead@uq.edu.au

Postgraduate Administrative Officer:
Mrs Erin Lewis
erin.lewis@uq.edu.au

In the event of any conflict arising from information contained in this publication, the material approved by The University of Queensland Senate shall prevail.