

CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Global leader in discovery and learning



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



The University of Wollongong is in the top 2 per cent of universities world-wide and is one of Australia's most dynamic universities, with an enviable international reputation for world-class research and exceptional teaching quality.

The University (UOW) was incorporated in 1975 and since then has become a benchmark for Australia's new generation of universities. It is ranked in the top 20 modern universities in the world.

We offer more than 400 undergraduate and postgraduate course and research degrees within five broad faculties – business; engineering and information sciences; law, humanities and the arts; science, medicine and health; and social sciences.

UOW works with academic and industry partners to solve the challenges that face today's world. We are a global leader in discovery and learning – working to transform people and the world we live in.

An international university

UOW is truly an international institution, delivering transnational education programs in a number of locations. It is globally-rated as a five-star university for its education experience and graduate outcomes.

UOW's student population is diverse, consisting of 143 nationalities among its student enrolment of more than 34,000. The University is listed among the top 100 most international universities in the United Kingdom's Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016/2017.

UOW's international reputation comes from fostering partnerships and collaborations with leading institutions as well as efforts to develop offshore education since the opening of its Dubai campus in 1993. The University also delivers tertiary education in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia. In 2015, UOW assumed stewardship and governance of the Community College of City University (CCCU), strengthening its position as a global higher education provider in North-East Asia.

As the Australasian member of the University Global Partnership Network, UOW's strong international outlook is demonstrated by partnerships with peers and industry, government and community-based organisations around the world.

Research impact

UOW's research and development activities are helping find solutions to some of society's biggest issues. From 3D bioprinting, materials engineering and medicinal chemistry, to social transformation - our research is solving complex real-world problems.

UOW actively engages locally and globally with industry and government to transfer research and outcomes into services and products. We have academic/research links with 272 institutions across the world.

Molecular Horizons: the University of Wollongong's \$80 million Centre of Molecular and Life Sciences was announced in 2016 and will be UOW's biggest ever self-funded research infrastructure investment. The purpose-built collaborative research centre will be equipped with world-leading technologies, centred around the revolutionary \$7 million Titan Krios cryo-electron microscope. This microscope – one of only a handful in the world and only the second, but most advanced, in Australia – is the world's most powerful and flexible high-resolution electron microscope for biological research.

The centre, expected to open in 2019, will allow researchers to develop new ways to detect and fight diseases ranging from cancer to Alzheimer's or developing new classes of antibiotics to fight superbugs.

The UOW Global Challenges Program encourages and develops interdisciplinary research to help drive social, economic and cultural change in our region which is translatable across the globe. Challenges researched under the central theme of "Transforming Lives and Regions" include Living Well, Longer; Manufacturing innovation; and Sustaining coastal and marine zones. These tackle three of Australia's biggest challenges and real international problems: coping with industrial transformation, managing an ageing population, and sustaining coastal and marine environments.

Our Innovation Campus – an award-winning research and commercial precinct – is home to a number of UOW's research institutes working in the development of "intelligent" innovative materials with the potential to regenerate damaged human nerves, the development of superconductors that make energy transmission more efficient, new techniques for sustainable building design, and maritime law and security, and innovative approaches to health service delivery and policy.

In 2016, the Innovation Campus won the Emerging Park Award at the Association of University Research Parks Awards in the United States. The iAccelerate Centre became the latest addition to the Campus in June 2016. The first of its kind in Australia, iAccelerate is the Illawarra's purpose-built business incubator and accelerator. It will help the Illawarra become recognised as a leader in technology entrepreneurship, innovation and startup development. Supporting students, staff and the greater Illawarra community, the Centre provides the infrastructure, mentoring and education programs for great ideas to grow. In late 2016, UOW opened Expressions of Interest for a partner to help develop a Health and Wellbeing Precinct on the Innovation Campus. The proposed precinct will comprise an integrated research and learning environment, and health and aged care facilities.

UOW's major research entities include:

- Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (AIIM)
- Early Start
- Illawarra Health & Medical Research Institute (IHMRI)
- SMART Infrastructure Facility
- Sustainable Buildings Research Centre (SBRC)

Early Start was opened in July 2015. It engages in multidisciplinary, evidence-based research across the spectrum of children's academic, physical, cognitive, social and emotional development. It is the Australian showcase for educational innovation, transforming teaching, learning and research.

Business and industry partnerships

UOW's world-class research is carried out in collaboration with industry and community partners, and researchers at other institutions in Australia and overseas.

The University has also partnered with the NSW Government to deliver the Advantage SME Program, which provides small to medium enterprises with a one-stop access point to the capabilities at UOW, including academics, students, researchers and labs. The partnership is aimed at creating new initiatives resulting in jobs growth.

The following are some projects with our international research partners:

- A world-first collaboration led by UOW's SMART Infrastructure Facility, in partnership with BPBD DKI Jakarta and Twitter Inc, is having a huge impact on how Jakarta's citizens and government agencies prepare for and respond to severe monsoonal flooding. The crowdsourcing urban data collection project PetaJakarta.org, uses social media to promote the resilience of cities to extreme weather events as a process of climate adaptation.
- Engineers from the Institute of Superconducting and Electronic Materials are working with Chinese steelmaker Baosteel and other partners to improve the energy efficiency of steel plants by developing new ways to capture heat from the steel-making process and convert it to usable energy.
- Medical Bionics scientists from the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute working with Hanbat National University in South Korea are building expertise in energy conversion and storage systems for medical bionics.

- Centre for Medical Radiation Physics researchers collaborated with NASA scientists to develop instrumentation for measuring the radiobiological effects of cosmic radiation on humans, and are working with leading radiation oncology institutes around the world on groundbreaking cancer treatments.
- Centre for Archaeological Science experts are working with Indonesian archaeologists on one of the most significant palaeoanthropological discoveries of modern times – the unearthing of a previously unknown species of tiny humans who had co-existed with modern humans until relatively recently. The world now knows the specimen uncovered by its nickname 'the Hobbit'.

Connecting communities

UOW is an international network of campuses and regional learning centres, with more than 13,000 students enrolled at the University's off-shore locations. Our nine domestic locations are Wollongong main campus, Innovation Campus, Southern Sydney, Bega, Batemans Bay, Shoalhaven, Southern Highlands, Sydney Business School and South Western Sydney. UOW's newly-opened South Western Sydney Campus at Liverpool will provide significant economic opportunities for the people of Liverpool by ensuring its best and brightest can remain in the region.

The new campus will initially occupy two floors of the Liverpool City Council's Moore Street building before moving into larger premises in Liverpool's new Civic Place development, expected to be completed in 2019.

Learning and the student experience

UOW's 134,000 alumni live and work in 175 countries across the world. Our graduates are well respected, with UOW being ranked among the top 1 per cent of universities in the world by employers.

UOW recently introduced a new co-curricular learning and recognition initiative to provide greater access to and recognise learning that takes place outside the formal curriculum. The UOWx initiative is aimed at providing students with experiences – such as volunteering – which contribute to their personal and professional development.

Equity and diversity

UOW endeavours to provide its students access to every opportunity to reach their potential. The University has a proud history of providing opportunities for 'first generation' students to become the first members of their families to undertake university studies.

The University hosts external programs such as the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous youth.

The Outreach Pathways Unit, including the In2Uni programs, works to increase the participation, retention and success rates for low socio-economic status students.

At UOW in 2016, 18.4 per cent of domestic undergraduate students were from a low socio-economic background (significantly higher than the national average of 15.9 per cent) and 28 per cent of students were from regional and remote areas.

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