

Honours and research

Universities are all about knowledge – creating, discovering, analysing, sharing and dispersing knowledge. Research is at the core of these activities and helps to make Deakin University a vibrant place to study.

At Deakin we take pride in being relevant to students and to their communities, not just in the courses we teach, but in the research we undertake.

Whether you want to study engineering, law, politics, education, psychology, medicine, health or in another field, studying at a university that is committed to research that matters means that you have the opportunity to learn from people who are making a real difference in the world.

More and more, Deakin University is becoming a research driven institution, which means that our lecturers include the people who write the textbooks or who are regarded as being at the cutting edge in their fields of research.

This is important, regardless of whether or not you want to pursue a research career, because it means that you will graduate with the latest knowledge in your chosen field.

Honours degrees

For many students, honours is the first opportunity to undertake their own research. Honours is a specialised year of study that allows you to draw together the theory and practical skills gained in previous undergraduate studies and develop an in-depth knowledge of your particular discipline through research and additional coursework.

At Deakin you can apply to undertake honours in one of two ways:


On-course honours award

Choose a course that has honours embedded within the course, e.g. Bachelor of Engineering. This type of honours award recognises outstanding achievement in a bachelors degree program of four or more years which has an embedded honours component.

Research-based honours award

Choose a course that allows you to undertake an additional year of study, e.g. Bachelor of Arts. This type of honours award allows you to undertake specialised research and research training.

These honours awards will provide you with significant experience and exciting opportunities to expand your skill base before moving onto employment or postgraduate study. It is also the standard (and shortest) pathway for entry into research degrees.



'Modern researchers must not only discover, invent and innovate, but they must also be able to communicate their work in a way that can effectively help policy makers and the community generally.'

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*Professor Lee Astheimer
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research)*

Research degrees

You can pursue postgraduate research studies in three different ways:

- » a masters by research, which is awarded for an original contribution to knowledge achieved in up to two years of full-time candidature
- » a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), which is awarded for a substantial original contribution to knowledge achieved in two to four years of full-time candidature
- » a Doctor of Psychology (DPSych), a professional doctorate program which combines a research project, coursework and structured research tasks that specifically relate to professional practice.

There has never been a more exciting or compelling time to be at Deakin University as it moves confidently towards the goal of improving its research performance so that it is in the top third of the Australian higher education sector.

This is being achieved by building a critical mass of researchers who will develop a distinctive, broad-based portfolio of high-quality discovery, applied and commercial research.

At the centre of Deakin's research strengths are its leading edge research facilities, institutes and centres:

- » Institute for Technology Research and Innovation (ITRI)
- » Alfred Deakin Research Institute (ADRI)
- » Institute of Koorie Education (IKE)
- » Geelong Technology Precinct (GTP)
- » Centre for Comparative Social Research
- » Centre for Memory, Imagination and Invention
- » Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing Research
- » Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research
- » Centre for Research in Educational Futures and Innovation
- » Centre for Sustainable and Responsible Organisations
- » Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Research
- » Centre for Integrative Ecology
- » Molecular and Medical Research
- » Population Health
- » Centre for Biotechnology, Chemistry and Systems Biology.

Deakin researchers continue to inspire the community with recent discoveries in relevant areas such as:

- » obesity and its prevention in the 21st century
- » mental health of farmers through difficult times
- » emerging fibres that will play a role in providing an environmentally sustainable future
- » creation of the UCI compliant *Deakin Smart Bike*.

The University's Medical School also plays an important role in enhancing Deakin's research reputation in public health. Another central component to Deakin's innovative work in health and wellbeing is the Clinical Research Facility. This is a multipurpose area capable of supporting both discrete discipline and multidisciplinary activity.

To discover more about Deakin's research strengths, please visit www.deakin.edu.au/research.