Postgraduate studies at UWA

The University of Western Australia continues to play a significant role in Australia’s outstanding record of scientific, economic and social achievement. The hallmark of the University’s contribution is its dynamic and innovative approach to teaching and research, and its strong affiliation with industry, the professions, government and the community.

Whether you are a graduate from UWA, or have completed your undergraduate degree at another institution, we welcome your interest in postgraduate study at UWA.

What are the benefits of postgraduate study?

Postgraduate study will allow you to gain specialised qualifications and skills, undertake specific research, and is necessary if you wish to start a career in research or academia.

If you are already working, further study will provide you with ongoing professional development to complement and diversify your skills base.

Students completing postgraduate study generally enter the workplace with higher starting salaries than those without postgraduate qualifications.

Employers claim that postgraduate study provides students with transferable skills that help them gain promotion within organisations.

Study options

Postgraduate students at UWA can choose between a research-based degree or coursework study, which may include a research component.

As a world-class research university, UWA offers valuable opportunities in postgraduate research and development of the highest calibre. In a research course, you work closely with an expert supervisor on a specific research topic to produce a dissertation of significant academic originality.

The University also offers postgraduate coursework programs that allow you to further advance your existing qualifications and achievements. Coursework studies are available at a number of levels, ranging from one-semester Graduate Certificate courses through to Master’s degrees and professional Doctorates. As a postgraduate student, you will undertake a selection of advanced study units, and in many instances, practical work, research projects and/or a dissertation.
Scholarships

Each year UWA offers prestigious scholarships to outstanding students who intend to undertake specialised research degrees.

Information about other full scholarships in the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences is available at:
www.scholarships.uwa.edu.au/home/postgrad/life_physical

Information on all scholarships available at UWA is listed in the Research and Scholarships Office:
www.scholarships.uwa.edu.au

Payment options

Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents

Tuition fees are applicable to a large number of postgraduate coursework programs. The University also offers postgraduate research degrees that are Research Training Scheme (RTS) funded and exempt from tuition fees.

Schedules of these fees are available at: www.unitcosts.uwa.edu.au

FEE-HELP information

A deferred payment loan scheme called FEE-HELP is available under the Commonwealth Government’s Higher Education Loan Program to eligible students who enrol in fee-paying courses. Additional information about FEE-HELP including eligibility is available from the website: www.goingtouni.gov.au

International students

Information for international postgraduate students on fees and scholarships is available on the UWA International Centre website:
www.international.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate/courses
www.international.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate/scholarships

International students should also visit www.international.uwa.edu.au, which gives more information about the study environment, course fees and refund policy, support services, and schooling costs for dependent children.
Achieving International Excellence

Postgraduate Studies in Life and Physical Sciences
Anatomy and Human Biology

The School of Anatomy and Human Biology offers high quality research programs in neuroscience, reproduction, regeneration, immunology, evolutionary biology and human morphology, all led by scientists of international standing. Its state-of-the-art anatomical teaching and research facilities are the most sophisticated in Australia, and are linked directly with the Clinical Training and Education Centre (CTEC). The School's SymbioticA is an internationally recognised laboratory that focuses on the Science-Art interface.

Students can choose from a range of flexible graduate degree structures tailored to meet their specific needs. One specialist degree is the recently established Graduate Diploma in Surgical Anatomy, which provides advanced training for surgical trainees and anatomy teachers.

Biomedical research and education, hospital-based specialties, and administrative and business-related areas of the health industry are some of the fields in which graduates can expect to find career opportunities. Postgraduate studies in Anatomical Sciences will prepare those interested in either teaching medical, dental and science students, or enhancing their existing skills.

As one of Australia's leading research-intensive universities and the premier research institution in Western Australia, UWA annually receives more than AUD $115 million of external research income, invests over AUD $178 million on research, and graduates over 350 higher-degree by research students, mostly with PhDs.

The Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences offers opportunities to undertake pure research in many areas. Applications for admission to Masters by pure research and PhD candidature can be made at any time of the year via the Graduate Research School. Prospective candidates should discuss their specific area of research interest with the relevant School, head of group or postgraduate coordinator to ensure the availability of supervision and facilities before submitting an application form.

Generally, full time students undertake a PhD over three to four years while part-time students can take up to eight years. In most areas of science, PhD students work as part of a team.

Having a Masters or PhD from UWA is a distinguished career achievement and creates openings for prestigious advancement.

The Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences offers the postgraduate degrees listed below. It is possible to enrol in a Graduate Diploma of Science or Master of Science in almost any scientific discipline taught at UWA.

**Science**

- Graduate Diploma in Science
- Graduate Diploma in Science and Technology
- Master of Science
- Master of Science and Technology

**Anatomy and Human Biology**

The School of Anatomy and Human Biology offers high quality research programs in neuroscience, reproduction, regeneration, immunology, evolutionary biology and human morphology, all led by scientists of international standing. Its state-of-the-art anatomical teaching and research facilities are the most sophisticated in Australia, and are linked directly with the Clinical Training and Education Centre (CTEC). The School's SymbioticA is an internationally recognised laboratory that focuses on the Science-Art interface.

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David Coall

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Basel, Switzerland*

BPsych 1994; BSc (Hons) 1999; PhD 2005

UWA and the School of Anatomy and Human Biology provided me with a unique opportunity to carry out my research in reproduction science. Nowhere else in Australia do you have the discipline-specific knowledge necessary to conduct this research, held by a group of academics keen to support a unique interdisciplinary study.

**Anatomy and Human Biology**

- Graduate Diploma in Anatomical Sciences
- Graduate Diploma in Human Biology
- Graduate Diploma in Science (Biological Arts)
- Graduate Diploma in Surgical Anatomy
- Master of Science (Biological Arts)
- Master of Science (Anatomy and Human Biology)
Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences

The School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences comprises the disciplines of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Microbiology and Immunology and Physiology.

The School boasts a Nobel Laureate, an ARC Federation Fellow, several ARC Professorial Fellows and a WA Premier’s Research Fellow. It has a strong and vibrant research culture, based on its highly skilled base of research staff, and inculcates a research ethos early in each of its cognate disciplines.

Centres within the School include the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, the Australian Invasive Animal Cooperative Research Centre and the WA Nanochemistry Research Institute. The UWA Centre of Excellence in Infectious Diseases will also form part of the school’s research activities from 2007. These centres provide high quality research training opportunities for both Masters and Doctoral candidates.

The School also offers several, vocationally oriented Masters programs designed to meet nationally identified areas of employment shortages. Our graduates are highly regarded, both nationally and internationally.

Forensic Science

Forensic science at UWA was founded in 1999 as the Forensic Science Unit, and within three years achieved international recognition and with the support of the Western Australian Government became established as the Centre for Forensic Science in 2002.

The Centre’s primary focus is postgraduate programmes, and has over 100 students enrolled in its courses making it one of the largest postgraduate communities on campus.

Since its inception the role of the Centre has expanded into areas such as criminal cold case reviews, forensic consultancy, teaching abroad and hosting international conferences on a variety of forensic issues. The Centre has forged links with State and National Police Services in Australia and leads the forensic community in many sciences such as Forensic Botany and Entomology.

Human Movement and Exercise Science

Established in 1970, the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science pioneered sport science programs in Australia. Experience, a fervent commitment to ongoing program evaluation and innovation, strong, streamlined structures and extensive national and international networks with leading academics all contribute towards the development of high quality graduates.

A leader in postgraduate training in the sport and health sciences in Australia, the School enjoys a national and international research reputation. It has a large postgraduate student body, with around half of them coming from overseas.

Several academic staff have received International honours, serve on editorial boards and professional bodies, and have been successful in attracting competitive research grants. The School plays a significant role in community programs, which provide additional research opportunities.

Graduates are keenly sought for employment opportunities, and many occupy positions such as university academics throughout Australia and overseas, and sport science roles in State and National Institutes of Sport.

Dr Michelle Elene Grassi
Senior Environmental Scientist, Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM)
BSc (Hons) 2000; PhD (Environmental/Analytical Chemistry) 2005
I chose postgraduate studies at UWA, as the opportunity had arisen to work on a similar project that extended my Honours thesis work. I gained so much practical and theoretical knowledge of environmental geochemistry and contaminated site remediation that I wanted to do more – so I chose to do a PhD.

Graduate Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science*
Graduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases
Master of Clinical Audiology
Master of Clinical Audiology / PhD
Master of Pharmacy
Doctor of Clinical Pharmacy*
Master of Science (Analytical Chemistry)
Master of Infectious Diseases

* Indicates courses that are not available to international students.

Michelle Harvey
Senior Lecturer in Forensic Biology,
University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom
BA 1999, BSc 1999, BSc (Hons) 2000; MForSc 2006; PhD 2006
Academic life is the ultimate career for me; at the University of Portsmouth I conduct research in a cutting edge science, help train the next generation of forensic entomologists, and get involved in forensic casework. The UWA Centre for Forensic Science provides an extremely supportive study environment where you get to interact with world leading scientists and access fantastic facilities.

Graduate Diploma in Forensic Science
Master of Forensic Science
Master of Forensic Science / PhD

Lian-Yee Kok
Lecturer at the Department of Sports Studies,
Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
B.Ed (Phy. Ed, UPM); M.Sc (Sports Science, UPM); PhD (Ex Physio, UWA)
My career aspirations when I first began my studies haven’t really changed over time; I was already a ‘hardcore’ academic before I arrived at UWA. I chose HMES at UWA because of its good reputation for facilities and academic supervisors, its good library facilities and its close proximity to home.

Graduate Certificate in Sports Science
(Administration/Management)
Graduate Certificate in Sports Science (Coaching)
Graduate Diploma in Science (Exercise Rehabilitation)
Master of Science (Human Movement)
Physics

Physics is one of the most fundamental of sciences. It seeks not only to discover the principles governing the behaviour of matter on length scales from the subatomic to the cosmological, but also to apply this understanding to the creation of new technologies. The School of Physics at UWA is engaged in the pursuit of both of these goals at the highest international levels, and as a PhD student, you will have the opportunity to join us in this exciting challenge.

Perhaps you would like to participate in an international program to detect the ripples in space-time predicted by Einstein; be part of a team; be producing the world’s best microwave sapphire oscillator; be involved in the development of the most sophisticated radio telescope in Australia or apply fundamental physics to the development of new imaging and drug delivery techniques. These are just a few examples of the cutting edge research being undertaken at the School of Physics.

Psychology

The School of Psychology has long been at the forefront in postgraduate psychology training. In addition to its well recognised PhD program, the School offers Master and Doctor of Psychology level training for those aspiring to careers as clinical psychologists, neuropsychologists, and industrial-organisational or applied developmental psychologists. More than half a century’s experience and a strong commitment to ongoing program evaluation and innovation make the School well placed to provide high quality degrees.

Continuous program development has resulted in strong, streamlined structures, as well as an extensive network of valuable relationships with professional psychologists, who participate in our programs by providing professional and research supervision. The School’s Robin Winkler Clinic and Child Study Centre provide excellent resources for research and professional skill development.

Staff members maintain national and international links, ensuring graduates enjoy a wide choice of employment options. Our graduates are much sought after in a variety of environments, with many receiving employment offers towards the end of their studies.

Science Communication and Science Education

Studying Science Communication at UWA offers you the chance to share your passion for science with people from all walks of life. You may want to complement your science studies with strong communication skills, or you may be looking to work as a professional Science Communicator. Alternatively, you may already work as a Science Communicator, but wish to see how the skills acquired could be applied to not only my future employment but also to life in general. Not only that, UWA provides a great environment in which to study.

Links with organisations in the Western Australian science community and expert practitioners will allow you to involve yourself in real world projects and directly put your skills into practice. The science community has become increasingly aware of the need to connect with people and consequently, career prospects are excellent.