



# Create your pathway to discovery and innovation

Graduate Research in the  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

# A welcome from the HDR Director



**Bhuva Narayan**

HDR Director

Join us as a graduate researcher and extend the frontiers of knowledge and practice

By enrolling in a Doctor of Philosophy or a Master of Arts (Research) in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UTS, you'll be joining a vibrant community of researchers and practitioners. Our discoveries and innovations extend research frontiers in areas such as public history, social and political sciences, international cultural studies, and languages. Our staff and students drive evidence-based change in key professions across

the creative industries, including writing, journalism, filmmaking, animation, and social media, and across primary education, secondary education, and adult education.

Higher Degree Research (HDR) will boost your skills in scholarly research and industry-ready professional practice, through opportunities to work with community and research partners in Australia and overseas.

During your candidature, you'll be mentored by creative and experienced research supervisors who are leaders in their fields, and supported by expert-led training programs with an interdisciplinary focus. You'll be welcomed to the FASS and UTS research communities, opening up opportunities for both academic and professional pathways beyond the University.

# My experience as an HDR student



## **Candice Delaney**

**The routes of re-growth: living with plants after catastrophic fire events in New South Wales.**

Principal supervisor:  
Professor Noel Castree

“My PhD candidature has been a juggling act between parenthood and scholarship.

I started in 2018 as a part-time student and took two periods of leave to have my second and third children.

While not your typical PhD journey, I’m really stimulated by my research topic and feel supported by the outstanding supervision, and flexible structures in place at UTS that support mothers pursuing scholarship.

As I enter the final phase of my candidature, and see the hard work and perseverance starting to pay off, I know UTS was the right choice for my academic journey, giving me the opportunities to develop as a capable researcher.”

# Our faculty and you

UTS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) has over 100 academic staff and some 140 HDR students, and we put evidence-based innovation, investigative rigour, and collaborative creativity at the core of our research.

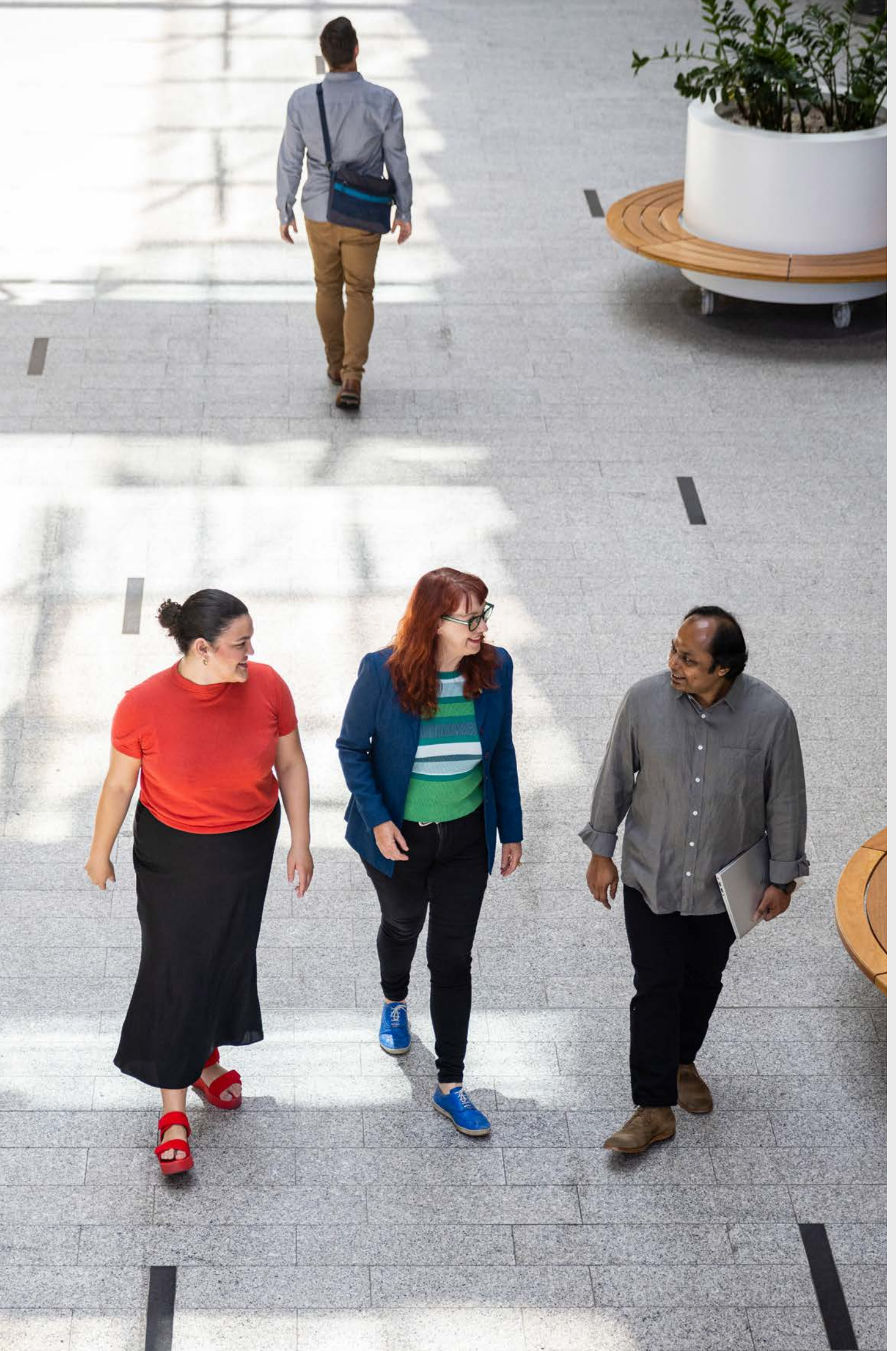
We believe in the power of research that directly benefits communities and stakeholders. Our researchers address problems and enrich public understandings around diverse domains, including:

- Indigenous identities, communities, and land justice;
- diversity, equity, and social inclusion;
- political and cultural understandings of the Asia Pacific region;
- environmental justice and climate change;
- transformations in creative industries, including film, television, music, sound and literature;
- best practices in policing and community safety;
- and new approaches to education and literacy in international contexts (among others).

Our researchers create impact through diverse forms of research communication. FASS has developed an international reputation for non-traditional research, which includes documentaries, novels, biographies, teaching toolkits, community events, public exhibitions, and audio-visual artistic works. HDR students are invited to propose non-traditional components within their research projects, and to be adventurous in finding ways to enhance impact through creative, playful, and experimental approaches to communicating research findings.

To support our HDR students, we provide diverse forms of ongoing research training to help build disciplinary confidence and knowledge. This training includes academic writing support, methods training around qualitative and quantitative research, reading groups, research seminar series, writing boot camps, and panel-based feedback on students' work in progress.









# Our research, your supervisors

FASS is a community of over 100 researchers and educators. We're organised into four research centres and seven research groups across the School of Communication and the School of International Studies and Education.

Our expertise spans multiple disciplines, making us among the most diverse communities at UTS, and we're widely known for our capacity to connect rigorous research findings to innovative forms of research communication, including a substantial presence from FASS experts across Australian news media and public policy debates.

In FASS, our academics provide excellent supervision for graduate research degrees, including many senior researchers who specialise in supervising interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research projects. Please look under the individual subject areas below for the variety and diversity of expertise in the Faculty.

We provide a highly supportive environment for research degree students, including research training through our highly-rated module on Academic Research Practices that HDR students complete in their first semester. Our supervisors have also won university-level UTS Vice Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence in graduate research supervision in 2020 (Dr. Bhuvu Narayan) and 2021 (Dr. Ilaria Vanni).



# Research structures

You can find your supervisors through the School of Communication, or the School of International Studies and Education, or through our research centres and groups listed below, or through exploring the bios of supervisors searching UTS Thesis Supervisors FASS.

## Research Centres

### **Australian Centre for Public History (ACPH)**

**Director: Associate Professor Tamson Pietsch**

Who is history for and what sort of histories should we recount?

### **Centre for Media Transition (CMT)**

**Co-director: Professor Monica Attard**

**Co-director: Professor Derek Wilding**

How is news journalism responding to the digital transformation of the news industry in Australia and beyond?

### **Climate, Society and Environment Research Centre (C-SERC)**

**Director: Professor Kate Barclay**

We analyse – and seek to shape – the way societies interact with energy systems, natural resources, and the living environment.

### **Centre for Research on Education in a Digital Society (CREDS)**

**Director: Dr Simon Knight**

We interrogate the dynamic relationship between technology and learning across formal, informal, and professional education contexts.

## Research groups

### **Asia Pacific Research Group (APRG)**

**Convenor: Professor Carolyn Cartier**

The Asia Pacific Research Group explores the transformation and diversity of this century's most dynamic region, including research on Australia and the Pacific, the Indo-Pacific, South and Southeast Asia, and specialty research on China, Japan, and Korea.

### **Creative Practice Research Group (CPRG)**

**Convenor: Associate Professor Alex Munt**

We create stories, experiences, and environments that profoundly shape wider cultural meanings and understandings. With an emphasis on technology and creative industries, we draw on cross-disciplinary research and engage with community and industry partners to translate our research in the wider world. We are the largest single group of creative practice teachers, researchers and professionals at UTS.





### **Crime and Security Science Research Group (CSSRG)**

**Convenor: Associate Professor Philip Birch**

The group is a partnership between academia and industry, focusing on applied criminology and related research in order to enhance public and community safety.

### **Diversities and Social Inclusion Research Group (DSIRG)**

**Convenors: Associate Professor Christina Ho & Dr Kristine Aquino**

Group members explore how our societies are shaped by diversities of many forms, including those defined by culture, gender, sexuality, class, and dis/ability, among others.

### **Health Communication Research Group (HCRG)**

**Convenor: Distinguished Professor Jim Macnamara**

A unique transdisciplinary collaboration of public communication and public health researchers, delivering insights to inform preventive programs and design effective interventions.

### **Life-wide Learning and Education Research Group (LLERG)**

**Convenors: Professor Nick Hopwood & Dr Kirsty Young**

The group brings together diverse fields of expertise to examine learning and education as a life-wide process across schooling, work, family, and community.

### **Technology Media and Strategy Research Group (TMSRG)**

**Convenor: Professor Maureen Taylor**

The group engages with the dynamic platforms, publics, and challenges of contemporary media contexts.



# Research with, by and for Indigenous Australians





## Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges (CAIK)

CAIK is a group of Indigenous researchers and ally scholars in FASS who conduct research intended to benefit Indigenous Australians. This research supports Indigenous peoples' rightful place in the nation, foregrounds Indigenous knowledges and experiences, and contributes to challenging systemic racism, transforming institutions such as universities and museums, and re-imagining the national narrative on Indigenous-settler relations to improve outcomes for Indigenous communities.



# Your research degree

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)  
will enable you to become an  
independent researcher.

With the guidance of a supervisory team, you'll undertake a research project, and produce an 80,000 - 100,000-word thesis (or equivalent including creative work) and develop advanced research skills and knowledge in your chosen field. The thesis is a substantial document that makes an original contribution to your field of research. Your thesis may also involve a non-traditional format, such as a creative practice or practice-led output. You have a choice to do research in collaboration with industry through an Industry Doctoral Programme if you have an industry sponsor. In Australia, you can fast track your PhD and finish within 3.5 years, though it normally will take you 4 years full time and 8 years part-time.

You'll need a strong academic background and you will need to submit a research proposal and other documents to support your application.

- **Doctor of Philosophy**
  - PhD Thesis: Education
  - Doctor of Philosophy
  - PhD Thesis: Communication
  - PhD Thesis: International Studies





**For International Applicants only.** You can join our doctoral degree program without moving abroad. Our PhDs are available in **distance mode**, an option that allows you to follow your aspiration to be a PhD researcher without disrupting your lifestyle, family, and work. There is no need to apply for and obtain a student visa, and you will also save on accommodation, travel, and other relocation costs. You may also be eligible for a tuition-fee offset scholarship if your application is scored highly on admission. All other application processes for a PhD by Distance are the same as those for on-campus PhD applications. For more information, visit the PhD by Distance webpage.

Additionally, you can also enrol in our collaborative doctoral programmes or our co-tutelle programmes if you'd like to have a thesis supervisor in your own country alongside a PhD at UTS.

**Master of Arts (Research)** is an internationally recognised graduate research degree.

With guidance from your supervisory team, you will undertake a significant research project and complete either a 40,000 – 50,000-word thesis, or a non-traditional thesis that involves a dissertation and a creative work. The MA (Research) will take you 1.5 to 2 years to complete full time and will enable you to develop advanced knowledge and methodologies.

MA (Research) work is conducted independently and you will need a strong academic background to apply. You will need to submit a research proposal and other documents to support your application.

Many MA (Research) candidates choose to continue with their research in order to obtain a PhD.

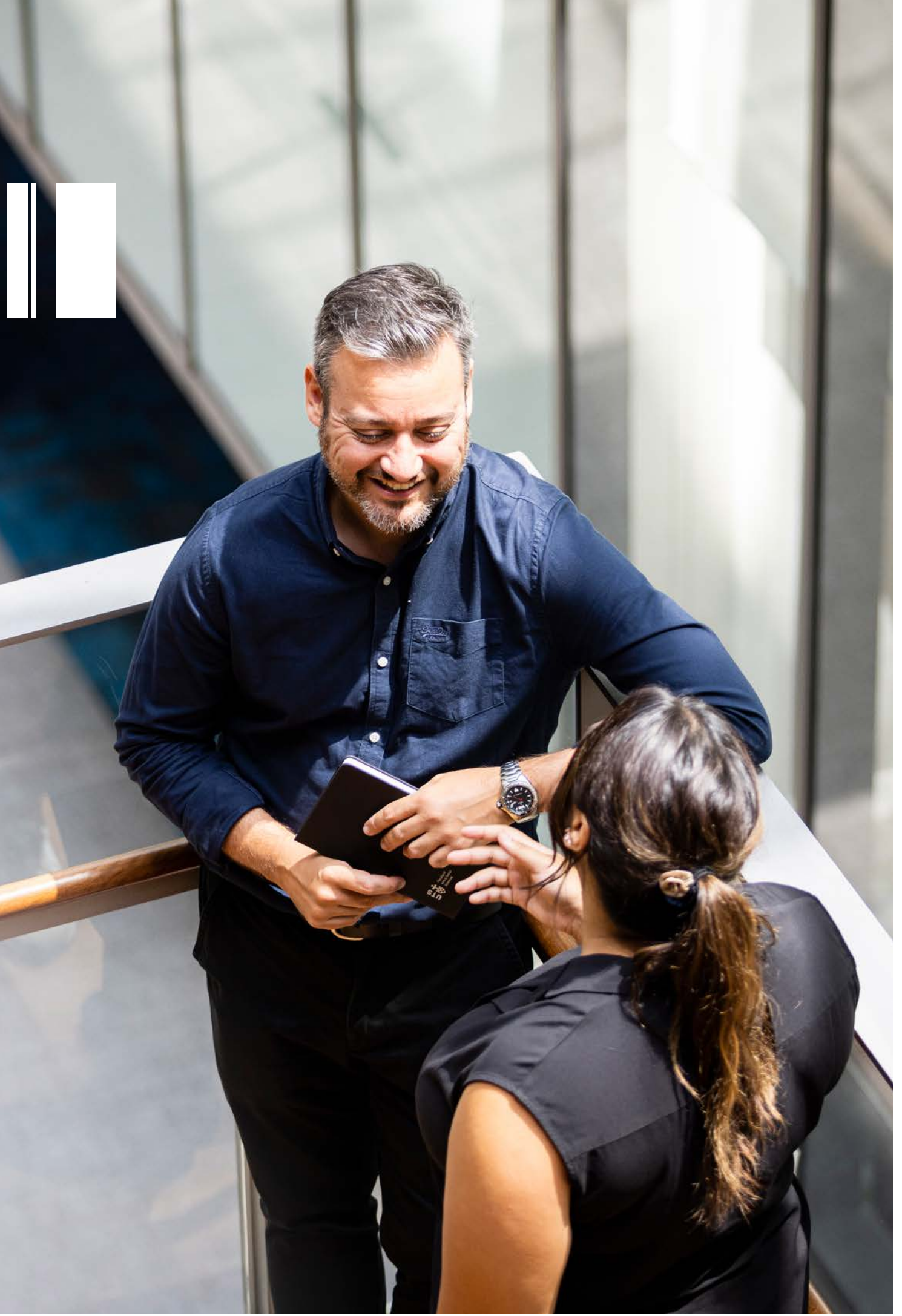
- **Master of Arts (Research)**
  - Thesis: Education
- **Master of Arts (Research)**
  - Thesis: Communication
  - Thesis: International Studies

# Funding for our research degrees

Our UTS scholarships search tool provides you access to scholarships by course type. Additionally,

1. All accepted Domestic students will automatically receive the RTP Tuition Offset Scholarship from UTS. This covers the cost of their tuition fees valued at **\$30,000 per year** for up to the maximum period of time allowable to complete their study (Doctoral degree 4 years full time or 8 years part time for domestic students.)
2. In addition to the RTP Tuition Offset Scholarship above, the University makes an additional contribution in the form of enhanced training and facilities that contribute to the research degree program.
3. Domestic and International applicants may also receive a **scholarship stipend** on a competitive basis, to the value of **\$32 500 per year**. The full-time scholarship is tax free, but the part-time scholarship is potentially taxable.
4. Admitted international students who successfully secure a scholarship stipend will also receive a Tuition Offset Scholarship for 3.5 years full-time, providing that their application documents and proposal achieve a sufficient score in the scholarships ranking, and that they meet English-language proficiency requirements.
5. FASS provides various types of support for resources, conference registration and travel, and other services connected to thesis research, in addition to thesis support funding provided by the Graduate Research School.
6. For students whose projects focus on children and young people there are **Rosemary Johnston HDR Scholarships**. One of the two supervisors needs to be in the Education discipline as a current or honorary staff member.





# Your peers

## Current research students

Our Higher Degree by Research students investigate a wide range of vital and topical issues in communication, international studies and education. Many are older students with years of professional experience and contacts they use during their research projects. Many students attract external accolades, such as Marcus Gale and Jason Di Rosso whose films were shown at the 2023 Melbourne International Film Festival.



### Shannon Foster

Shannon Foster is a D'harawal Knowledge Keeper, artist and interdisciplinary creative practitioner with over twenty years of experience in designing

education programs and spaces in prominent learning institutions. As a registered Traditional Owner of the now-Sydney region, Shannon has expertise in cultural practices, history and ceremony; in ecological and botanical knowledges of local eco-systems as well as Indigenous Research Methodologies, and Aboriginal languages. Shannon is currently completing her doctoral thesis with the Centre for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges at UTS where she is researching D'harawal Storytelling Methodology and the Narinya (Living Dreaming) of her Elders as Traditional Custodians of the now-Sydney Basin and surrounds.



### Indra McKie

**'Voicebots in everyday life:  
An exploration of perception  
and use'**

Indra is a 3rd year PhD in Communications. She has enjoyed

being part of the UTS community by working at the university's Library, Information Technology Division, Learning Experience Lab, as a Casual Tutor, and has been a Student Representative on the Academic and Research School Boards. Her PhD has already secured her a professional position related to her PhD expertise, bridging the gap between user research and technology for conversational AI experiences.





### **Fievel Tong**

**'A critical discourse analysis of the under-representation of people with trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) in Australian post-secondary education contexts'**

Inclusive post-secondary education for people with trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) in Australia is a relatively new area of development. Many people with Down syndrome express interest in, and potential for, further education. Fievel's research foregrounds the voices and lived experiences of these people in the area of post-secondary education, with the hope of contributing towards the growth of such learning opportunities for this minority group.



### **Monica Galassi**

**'Aboriginal Archives in Italy. A space for reciprocal collaboration' (in collaboration with Jumbunna Institute).**

Monica's research relates to international debate on rights over access, management and repatriation of cultural artefacts and material, many of them unknown to Aboriginal communities in Australia. In particular, records in Italy and the Vatican are little known among First Australians and difficult to access because of the barriers of language, the record-keeping practices of Italian institutions, multiple layers of power and interests, and no agreed framework to manage access and/or return records to their communities of origin. This research project facilitates digital access to records, and promotes reciprocal and collaborative research.



### **Anne Casey**

**The Second-Wave Impact in Australia of the Great Irish Famine**

Blending archival research and reclaiming undocumented oral history, Anne's thesis explores the

history of Australia's first refugees - families who fled the Great Irish Famine (1845-1849). Revealing new discoveries from research into the intergenerational impacts in Australia of the Irish Famine, this thesis utilises poetry and creative non-fiction to tell the human story behind the history. Anne's poetry based on her PhD research has won national and international awards and one of her poems has been selected by NASA to be sent on a Moon mission for astronauts to read and also deposit in a time capsule on the Moon.



# Our reputation

Many of our supervisors are field-leading researchers and practitioners, including writer Anna Funder, communications scholar Maureen Taylor, and documentary film maker Rachel Landers.



**UTS ranked in the Top 100 universities in the world**  
(QS World University Rankings 2024)



**International reputation: highest-performing university in Australia under 50 years of age**  
(THE Young University Rankings 2023)



**Australian reputation: 100% of UTS research (broad fields) rated as world standard or above**  
(Excellence in Research for Australia 2018)



# Our university campus

The UTS campus is located on Gadigal Country, in the area known today as Broadway, within Sydney's growing education, innovation and creative hub at the southern gateway to Sydney's central business district. It's adjacent to the Central Station and part of a precinct that's home to the ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission), the Powerhouse Museum, TAFE Ultimo, the International Convention Centre (ICC), Darling Harbour and Chinatown.

UTS continues to invest in and transform its campus, to support its work as a leading public university of technology, including work and study spaces to accommodate future education and research needs, as well as future growth.

UTS investment in **specialist facilities** is providing new opportunities for high-impact research and industry partnerships. The transformation of research and of the delivery of teaching and learning is changing and evolving UTS physical spaces.

Our campus is open to industry partners and the community, who are welcome to visit.

UTS campus is also a physical reflection of our **sustainability goals**. UTS newest buildings have all achieved five- or six-star Green Star Certified ratings, with sustainable design and engineering initiatives a prominent component of their design.

Across UTS campus, innovative initiatives are reducing electricity consumption, potable water use and waste to landfill. UTS facilities support students and staff to enhance their own sustainable practices through recycling, reducing single-use plastics and using sustainable transport.





# Our university library

UTS Library provides state-of-the-art space, advice, training and resources for researchers at all stages of the research journey.

## Spaces

UTS Library provides a mix of indoor and outdoor spaces to meet your research needs, including:

- **UTS Scholars Centre** a dedicated study space for HDRs with facilities for quiet study and writing, printing, lockers and meeting rooms.
- **Attila Brungs Reading Room** a light-filled, quiet study space with an academic atmosphere.
- **UTS Library** a mixture of quiet and collaborative spaces with computers, printing, lockers, outdoor terraces and bookable individual study rooms.





## Services

The Library provides one-on-one support, training and advice at all stages of your research journey, including:

- searching the literature
- referencing
- organising and managing information
- measuring the impact of your research
- building your publishing track record
- Copyright advice for publishing
- submitting your digital thesis

## Resources

HDRs have access to a wide range of scholarly resources through the Library, including:

- the Library collection
- access to databases and journals
- UTS Publications including OPUS, the UTS digital thesis repository
- the ability to request resources from other libraries to support your research.

**[lib.uts.edu.au](http://lib.uts.edu.au)**







**For more information**

**[uts.edu.au/fass-HDRresearch](https://uts.edu.au/fass-HDRresearch)**

**[FASS.HDR@uts.edu.au](mailto:FASS.HDR@uts.edu.au)**