

Graduate
Research School



Leadership through innovation

UTS Industry PhDs

UTS is committed to driving innovation and competitive advantage through ground-breaking research and development.

Our researchers are leaders in creating solutions for the increasingly complex challenges facing our society—driving sustainable economic, social, and cultural prosperity.

Innovation is critical to leading in a changing world...

75% of global CEOs believe their business is not adapting fast enough

Innovation-active Australian SMEs and ASX200 firms have higher productivity, higher revenue, and higher job growth

The top 10% of ASX financial performers create novel solutions based on emerging tech

Facing an increasingly challenging century, we need **adaptable, resilient problem solving** more than ever

...and you have to cultivate the right skills and capabilities

Australian company directors believe access to the right talent is their #1 barrier to innovation

Only 35% of Australian company directors believe their boards have the knowledge to assess both the ethical and practical implications of emerging technologies

40% of global CEOs believe their business has a talent pipeline problem

77% of Australian employees are disengaged at work

The UTS Industry Doctorate Program

World-class thought leadership and outstanding professional training

The UTS Industry Doctorate Program (IDP) helps organisations cultivate the expertise and deep innovative capabilities to become industry leaders.

The IDP reengages rising talent by offering them next-generation professional development, as well as the transformative challenge of solving a pressing challenge for their industry.

IDP-trained researchers learn to scan horizons for future disruptions, create evidence-driven solutions, and build competitive advantage in their sector.

From robotics to data to social change, the IDP prepares organisations and professionals for the future by delivering new solutions to challenging problems.

“This is a unique action-research PhD program that’s about creating career expertise among future leaders and innovators. We know collaboration is key to solving the increasingly complex and wicked problems we face.”

Distinguished Professor Martin Loosemore, UTS

How it works

The IDP is a collaborative research project between the industry partner, the professional, and UTS. The industry partner defines the research problem and the professional is the primary researcher, supported by the academic rigor of UTS’s world-class experts.

Timeframe: The IDP is a 3–4 year PhD program, with agreed project deliverables back to the organisation.

Deliverables: An IDP isn’t limited to a traditional thesis: it could include a variety of tangible deliverables like a patent, algorithm, policy proposal, or business model.

Cohorts: The IDP can be done as an individual learner, but a cohort allows the organisation to develop a team approach to the problem space, deepen in-house expertise, and ensure innovations have sustainable internal support.

Eligibility: There’s no limit on the kinds of organisations that need expert skills, innovation and evidence-driven change. The IDP is open to:

- international corporations
- SMEs
- government
- NGOs
- non-profits
- startups
- Indigenous community organisations
- cultural or community-sector partners

IDP partners have included the construction, conservation, finance, natural resources, pharmaceutical, shipping and transport, professional sports, technology, and government sectors.

Learners need to meet UTS’s admissions requirements (which can take professional experience into account).

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Benefits to the industry partner

- define the research problem and project on your terms, with milestones and deliverables that propel business success
- access UTS facilities and resources
- increase ability to create evidence-driven innovation
- retain your talent with an improved employee value proposition
- strengthen relationships with a major knowledge partner and build the potential for future impact

→ future-proof your organisation as a leader in your field

Benefits to the IDP professional

- deep expertise and specialised knowledge, built on your existing experience
- world-class research skills and leading-edge innovation capabilities
- opportunity to address a real-world problem that's meaningful to your industry
- mentoring from global experts
- internationally-recognised prestigious qualification
- keep your salary

→ future-proof yourself as a leader in your field

IDP research projects have:

- programmed robots
- supported financial sustainability in the public sector
- evaluated the cost effectiveness of medical therapies
- used visualisation to enhance marketing intelligence
- developed new models of professional education
- managed financial risk for real estate enterprises
- identified opportunities to improve retirement outcomes
- designed social media interventions to support mental health
- improved the fitness of NRL referees
- ...and more

Australian employers are **most satisfied** working with research alumni, particularly **their technical skills** and **adaptability**

"The IDP provided us with options that can improve financial, environmental and social outcomes."

Executive director, public service department

"I loved the IDP. It's the best thing I've done with my career."

IDP alumni, 15 years prior industry experience

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Industry partner contribution

In-kind time contribution: The learner must be allowed sufficient time in their workload to engage in the research project

Financial support: A research support fee of \$5,000/year (for non-lab-based research) or \$10,000/year (for lab-based research)

UTS contribution

World-class expertise: IDP-trained researchers are mentored by experts in their field and have access to global research networks

Time: on average, a PhD supervisor invests 100 hours/year in mentoring and advising a research student

Facilities: UTS offers a range of advanced research facilities including Tech Lab, the Biologics Innovation Facility, Protospace, and the Data Arena, as well as over 40 research centres

Professional development: UTS researchers have access to extensive development and training opportunities, from publishing to pitching to podcasting to project management

Financial support:

- Up to \$5,000 per learner to attend conferences
- Up to \$1,500 per learner to attend external development activities



Why partner with UTS

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At UTS, our research finds practical solutions to real-world problems

We're research game-changers unconstrained by tradition and supported by the best in innovation, intellect and infrastructure.

We work across disciplines to deliver solutions for our industry partners, create knowledge with our learners and generate real impact in our communities.

"We wanted an institution that was recognised for both its quality of research and appreciation of innovation—UTS really fit the bill."

National manager, research and evaluation, not-for-profit

Top 100 global university

100% of UTS research is at world standard or above

#1 in Australia for research that has a high impact on our economy, environment, and society

UTS is known for blending creativity and technology to drive innovation, particularly in areas related to:

- Agriculture and food technologies
- Creative industries
- Health and biotech
- Space and defence
- Sustainability and climate change

100% of industry organisations collaborating on recent research projects (2021–22) would recommend UTS as a research partner

Top 3 benefits identified by current research partners:

- New knowledge created for their organisation
- New or improved product, process, or service
- Value for the wider community or society

Ready to future proof?
Invest in your organisation with the Industry Doctorate Program

We're here to solve problems, not create them. UTS can help you connect to the right academic expertise, develop a project plan, and agree on IP and other foundations.

Reach out to the Graduate Research School when you want to talk about solving the grand challenge facing your field: grs@uts.edu.au