



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

Research with impact





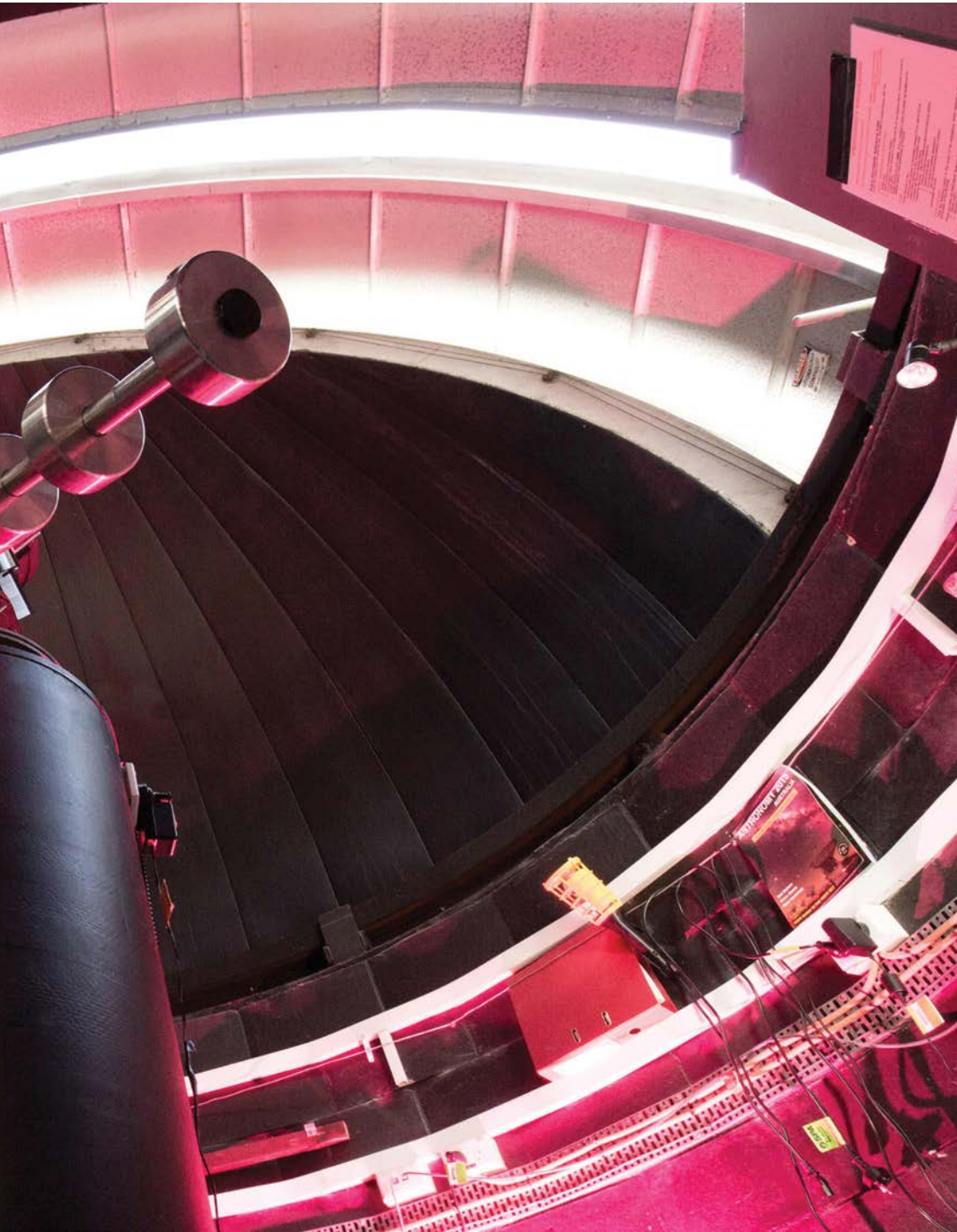
Graduate research is more than a pathway to academic achievement – it generates knowledge that shapes society, informs policy, drives innovation and improves lives. By undertaking research, you contribute to advances that extend well beyond your own project, building benefits for communities locally and globally.

Research impact also depends on equipping yourself with the right tools. Every project requires a blend of technical expertise, critical thinking and transferable skills. Identifying any skills gaps early enables you to address them proactively through training, mentoring or professional development. Building these skills not only strengthens your research outcomes but also enhances your future career opportunities across academia, industry and beyond.



Research with impact





RECOGNISING THE IMPACT OF YOUR RESEARCH

Graduate research has the power to create far-reaching change when designed with impact in mind. By engaging with stakeholders beyond academia, aligning with pressing societal needs and clearly communicating outcomes, researchers can generate influence across five key areas:

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Research can drive innovation, boost productivity and create new ventures when aligned with industry needs. Collaborating with commercial partners and exploring pathways to commercialisation ensures that discoveries contribute to a thriving, knowledge-based economy.

POLICY INFLUENCE

Evidence-based insights from research can inform policy decisions at local, national and international levels. When researchers engage with policymakers and translate findings into accessible recommendations, they can shape legislation to benefit society.

SOCIETAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT

Research can advance social justice, cultural understanding and public awareness. Working with communities and/or civil society organisations helps researchers co-create solutions that are inclusive, equitable and grounded in real-world experience.

SCIENTIFIC AND ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT

At its core, graduate research expands the frontiers of knowledge. When shared through collaboration and interdisciplinary work, it builds capacity and lays the groundwork for future breakthroughs.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH IMPROVEMENTS

Research in health and environmental fields can improve lives and protect the planet. Partnering with health agencies or environmental groups can ensure research findings translate into better care, cleaner ecosystems and sustainable futures.

PATHWAYS TO IMPACT



Graduate researchers are **motivated** by a desire to make meaningful contributions that extend beyond academia – through innovation, influencing policy, fostering social equity, advancing knowledge or improving health and the environment.



Your impact is **facilitated** by access to strong partnerships, supportive networks, and resources that enable collaboration with researchers, industry, policymakers, communities and other stakeholders.



Through these experiences, you will develop essential **skills** such as strategic communication, interdisciplinary teamwork, stakeholder engagement, ethical research practice and project management – equipping you to transform ideas into real-world outcomes.

See detailed information about the motivators, facilitators and skills in our **RESEARCH IMPACT** table, on page 8.



RESEARCH IMPACT

- What change do you hope your research will enable?
- What are you already doing – or could do differently – to maximise research relevance and impact?

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Innovation and commercialisation
- Productivity gains
- Job creation



POLICY INFLUENCE

- Evidence-based policy
- Social problem-solving
- Long-term strategic planning



MOTIVATORS

- Why do you care about making a difference in your chosen impact area?
- How does your passion connect with real-world needs or broader goals?
- What personal experiences or values have shaped your interest in this impact area?
- What keeps you committed to pursuing this line of research, even when it's challenging?

- Desire to see research lead to tangible products, services or innovations
- Motivation to improve productivity, efficiency or competitiveness in real-world settings
- Interest in entrepreneurship, commercialisation or contributing to a high-skill economy

- Passion for shaping evidence-informed public policy or government decision-making
- Drive to see research used in service of long-term social, legal or health reforms
- Interest in translating complex ideas into accessible insights for public impact

FACILITATORS FOR IMPACT

- How can you maximise your impact?
- Can innovation or commercialisation programs help you bring your research to life?
- Who in industry or practice could benefit from your research?
- Are there international communities or partners who could enrich your research?

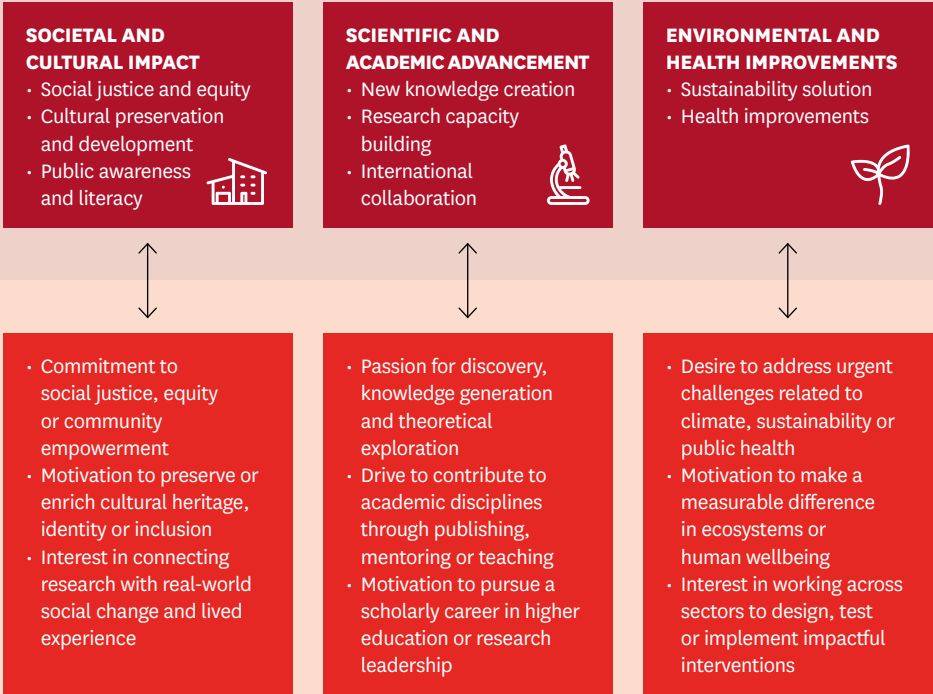
SKILL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- Which areas of skill development – industry, entrepreneurship, teaching or research leadership – align most closely with your research goals?
- What opportunities are available to help you build these skills?
- Who could support or mentor you in building these capabilities?

INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALISATION

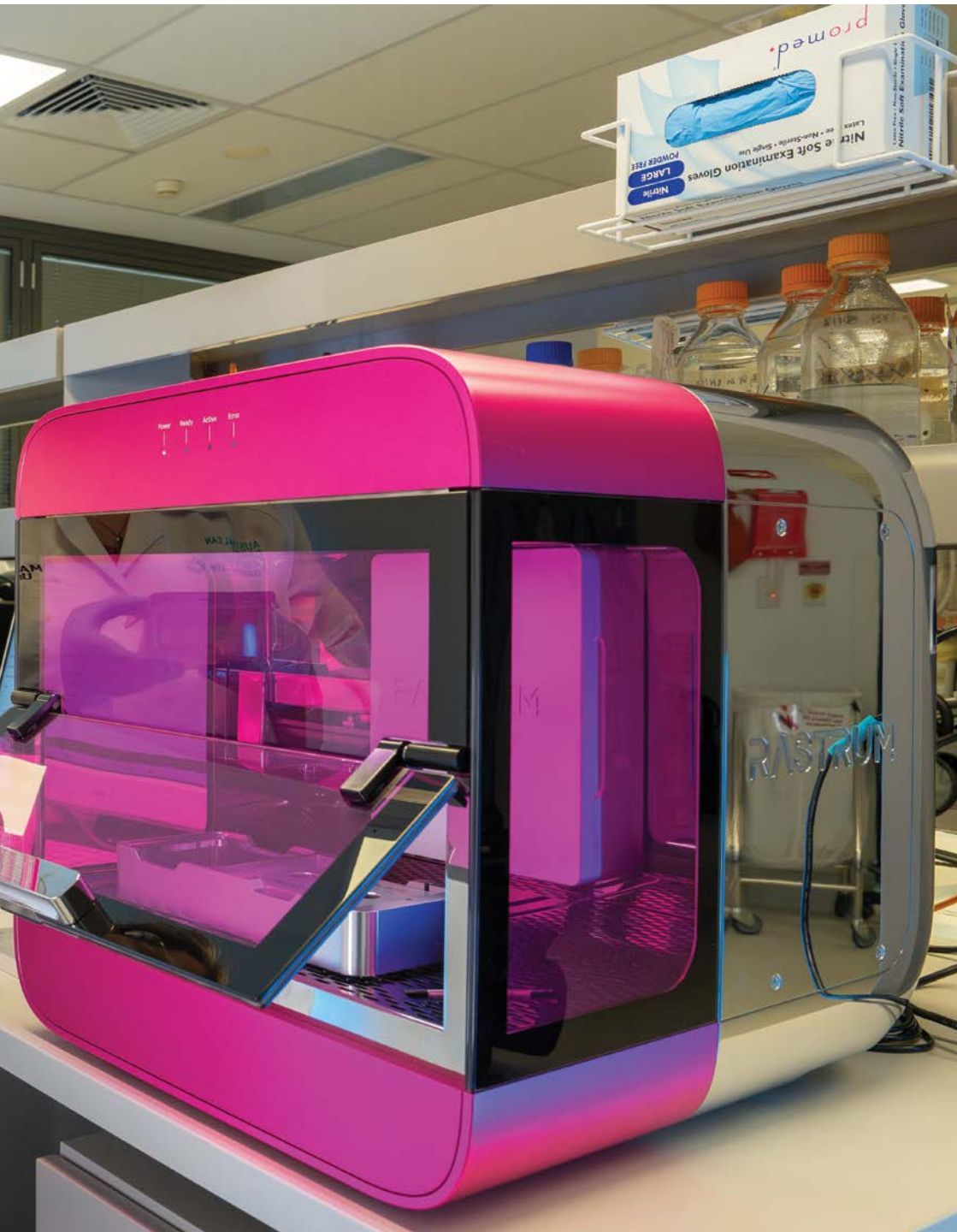
Explore how innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialisation can help bring research to life and make real-world change.

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP ENTREPRENEURSHIP TEACHING





Developing the skills for impact



**GRADUATE RESEARCHER
DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

Creating meaningful research impact requires more than a good idea – it calls for a combination of technical expertise, collaboration, communication and strategic thinking. The **Graduate Researcher Development Framework (GRDF)** outlines the core skills that support graduate researchers to succeed.

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?



What **strengths** do you already bring to your research?



Which of the **GRDF skills** do you feel confident in?



What **skills** could you develop to make your research more impactful?



What **support or opportunities** could help facilitate your development in each skill domain?



Think

Knowledge and research strategies
Innovation, creativity and discovery
Digital and technology

Grow

Career development
Self-management

Graduate Researcher Development Framework



Lead

Leadership and social influence
Information exchange
Global citizenship



Deliver

Project planning and delivery
Responsible research



Think

The knowledge, skills and strategies to conceptualise, analyse and deliver fresh perspectives and creative solutions to global challenges

KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH STRATEGIES

- Discipline knowledge
- Scholarly communication
- Research design and analysis

INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND DISCOVERY

- Analytical and critical thinking
- Creative thinking and problem-solving
- Commercialisation and entrepreneurship

DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY

- Digital and AI literacy
- Data management
- Data sciences



Grow

The personal qualities to self-manage, build effective relationships, develop networks and target opportunities relevant to personal aspirations

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- Career management
- Liaising and networking
- Reputation and esteem

SELF-MANAGEMENT

- Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
- Self-awareness and accountability
- Collaboration and managing relationships

YOUR POTENTIAL SKILL SET

Each domain of the framework connects to a set of skills that enable you to realise your research ambitions. By exploring these skill areas, you can identify what **motivates** you, recognise potential **facilitators** and focus your **development** where it will make the most difference. Building these skills equips you to navigate challenges, communicate your research effectively, and create positive change through your work.



The knowledge and skills to plan, execute and deliver ethical and sustainable projects with integrity and professionalism

PROJECT PLANNING AND DELIVERY

- Research strategy and planning
- Sourcing and applying for funding
- Management of financial and material resources

RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH

- Health, safety and sustainability
- Research ethics and integrity
- Data governance, IP and copyright



The leadership and communication skills to influence ideas, disseminate information and drive solutions to cultural, social and environmental challenges

LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL INFLUENCE

- Consilience/multidisciplinary engagement
- Impact and engagement
- Ethical leadership

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- Publication
- Teaching and training
- Public communication of research

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

- Environmental awareness
- Equality and diversity
- Social and cultural awareness

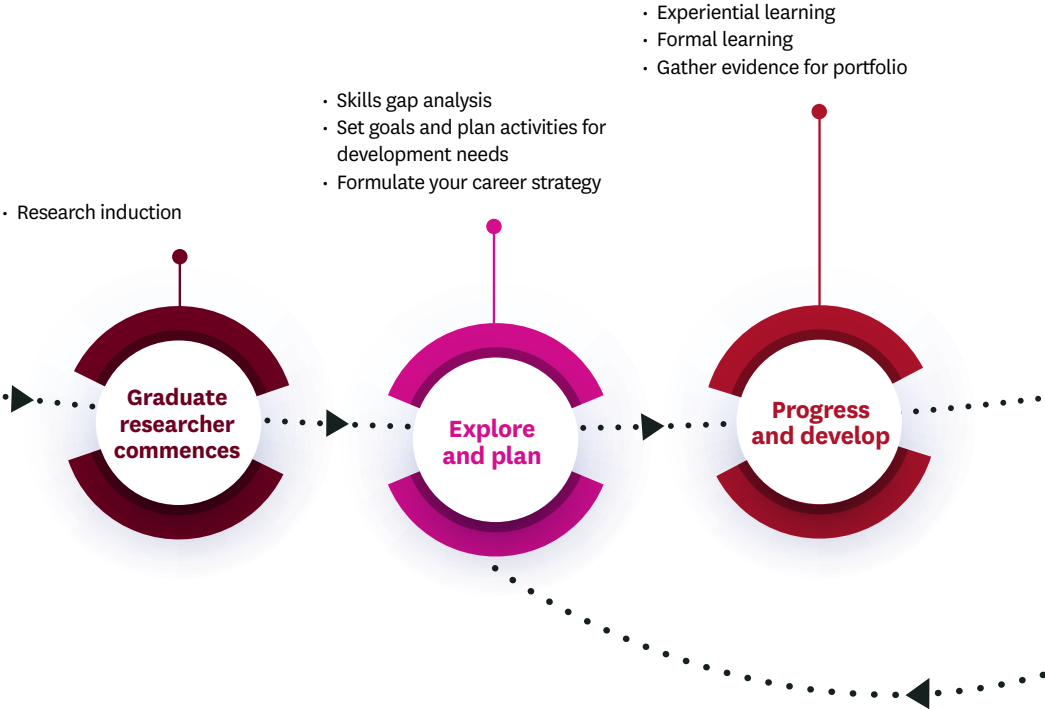
DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS

To support you on this journey, the **Graduate Researcher Development Program (GRDP)** provides a structured approach to planning and assessing your skill development.

Through the GRDP, you can complete a skills gap analysis, set personal development goals, document your progress and learn how to build a portfolio that showcases your growing capabilities – giving you a competitive edge for careers in academia, industry and beyond.

Start your skills journey today: Access the **GRDP iLearn unit** and take the next step in planning your development.

Graduate Research Journey

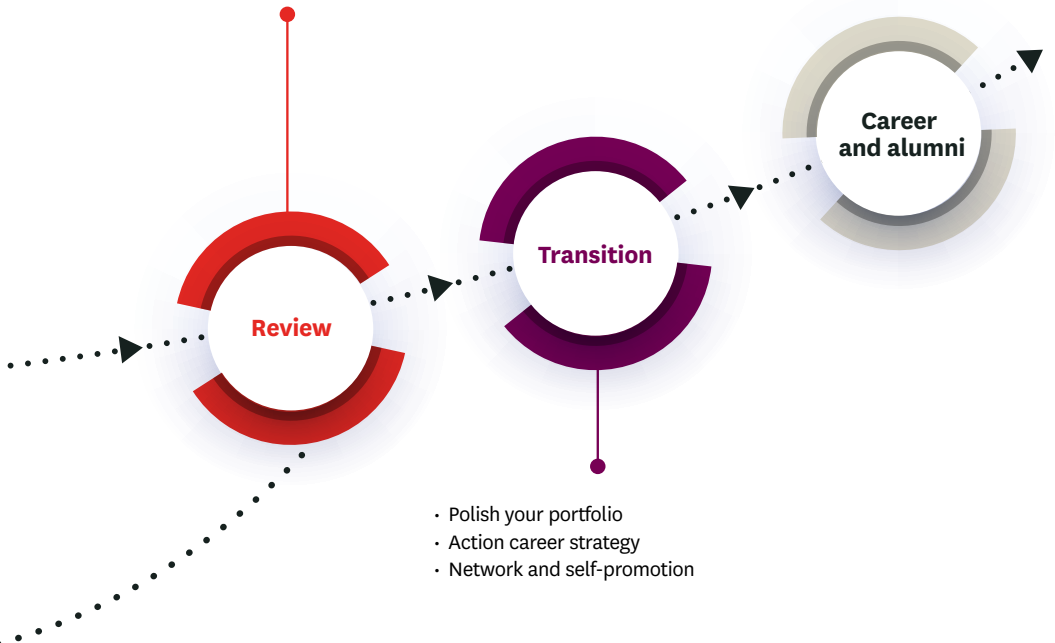


PLANNING YOUR SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill development is not a one-off activity – it’s a continuous process woven throughout your candidature. The **Graduate Research Journey** illustrates key milestones where planning, building and refining your skills can have the greatest impact.

From your initial research induction, through planning, progressing and reviewing your development, to transitioning into your next career step, each phase offers opportunities to identify skill gaps, set goals and gather evidence of your growing capabilities.

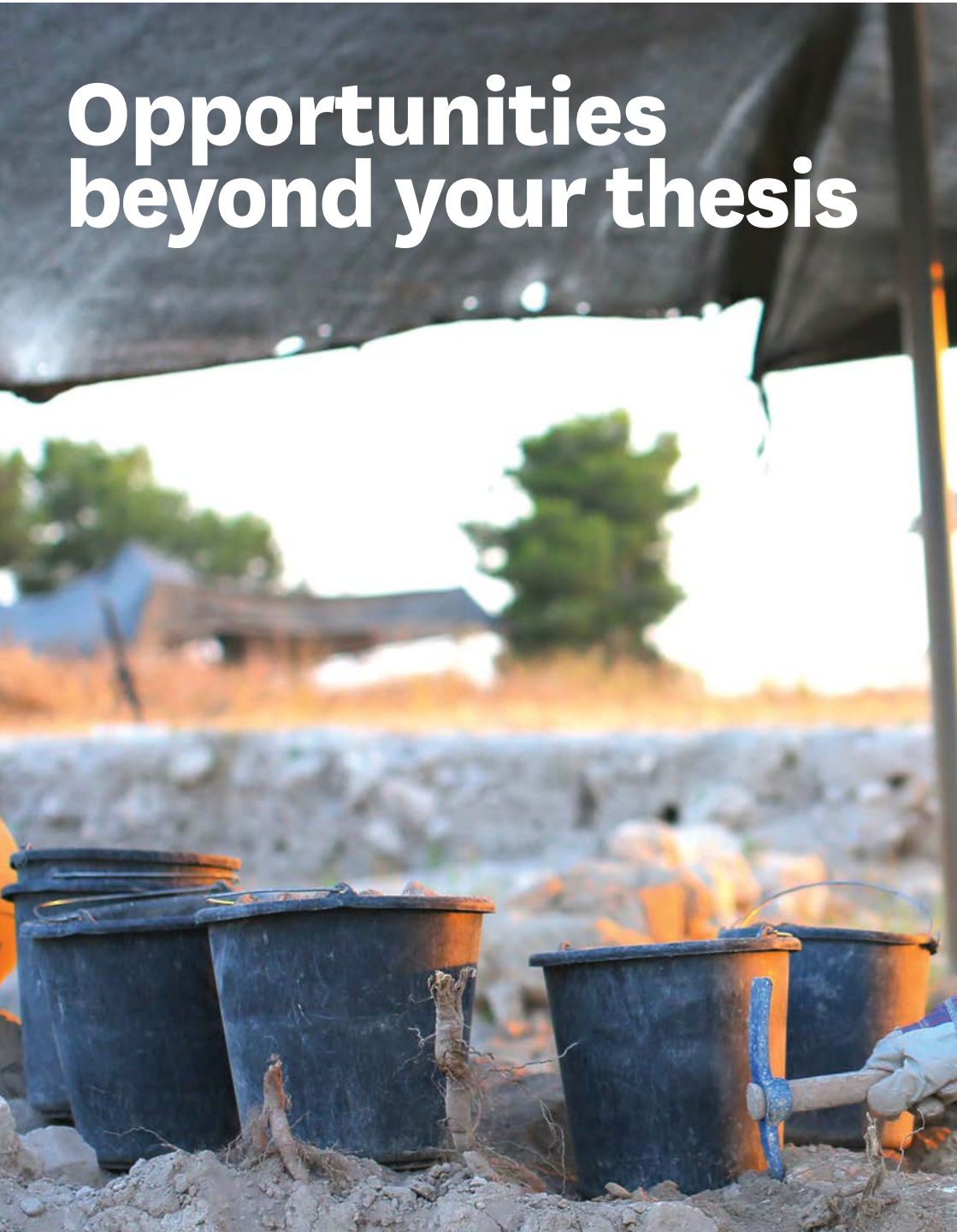
- Annual review of progress and reflect on capabilities developed
- Update portfolio and career strategy



GETTING STARTED – IDENTIFY YOUR SKILLS LEVELS

Get started by using the **Graduate Research Skills Gap Analysis** tools to identify your areas of strength, and where to focus your development.

Opportunities beyond your thesis





OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND YOUR THESIS

Creating real-world research impact takes more than ideas – it takes action. A range of programs can to help you apply your skills, grow your networks and increase your research impact. Whether you're exploring innovation and commercialisation, engaging with industry, expanding globally or securing scholarships and grants, each opportunity supports you to build experience, confidence and momentum on your research journey.



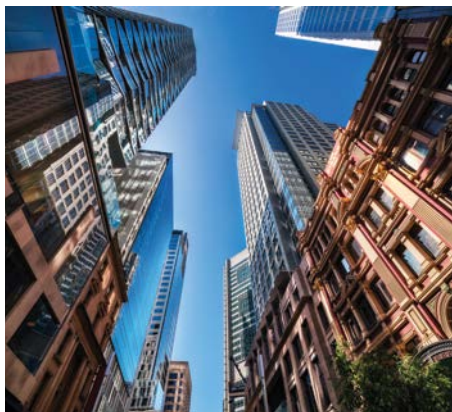
INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALISATION

Ready to take your research further? The journey from idea to impact involves both support and opportunity – and that's where the **Macquarie University Incubator** and **startup competitions** come in.

The **Incubator** can help turn your research into a scalable venture, offering resources like mentoring, business development support and access to networks that can bring your ideas to life.

Pitch competitions let you test your concepts, receive feedback and compete for recognition and funding. Whether you're refining your pitch or seeking validation, these challenges offer an exciting way to showcase your potential.

By combining the Incubator's hands-on support with the exposure and competitive energy of startup challenges, you're not just theorising – you're **doing**.



INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Want to see your research make a difference beyond academia? Building connections with **industry** can **transform** your work from **theory into solutions** that matter.

Industry engagement opportunities

– internships, collaborative projects or consultancy placements – let you apply your expertise to real-world challenges, while expanding your professional network.

Through internships, industry-led workshops and partnership grants, you can work directly with companies, government agencies, non-governmental organisations or not for profits that can benefit from your insights and help you shape your research in practical, impactful ways.

By engaging with industry, you'll gain firsthand experience of commercial and organisational contexts, build valuable skills and discover how your research can create change where it's needed most.

“It was an excellent opportunity to get to know the work within the industry and obtain valuable professional experience relevant to the discipline of my PhD research.”

Amirmohammad Pasdar

PHD INTERNSHIP PARTICIPANT



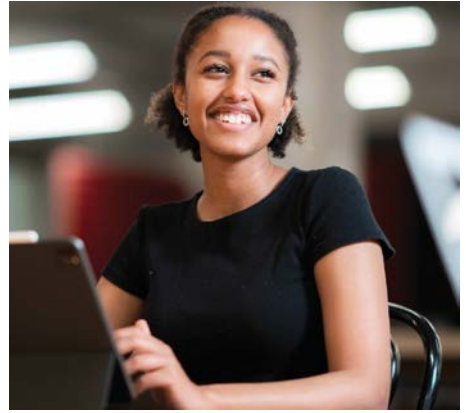
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Ready to expand your research horizons? Engaging globally can bring fresh perspectives, new collaborations and opportunities you might never have imagined.

Macquarie’s global programs – including study tours, international research exchanges and short-term mobility experiences – let you connect with scholars and institutions around the world. These experiences deepen your cultural understanding and help position your work in an international context.

Through **Global Short Programs** you can participate in overseas learning experiences tailored to your research interests, gaining exposure to global issues and different approaches to research and innovation.

By stepping outside your local environment, you’ll not only grow as a researcher, you’ll strengthen your ability to work across cultures, navigate complex global challenges and broaden your impact.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Looking to unlock the full potential of your research? Scholarships and grants don’t just provide funding – they give you the opportunity to focus, explore and elevate your work.

Opportunities like **research scholarships**, **grant funding** and **competitive fellowships** can support your studies, fund fieldwork and enable you to present at conferences around the world. These resources can open doors to new collaborations and help you gain recognition for your ideas.

Applying for grants and scholarships also helps you develop valuable skills in proposal writing, budgeting and project planning – key competencies for any research career.

By actively seeking funding opportunities, you’re investing in yourself and building the momentum your research needs to make a lasting impact.





Embarking on graduate research is both a personal and professional journey. The knowledge you create will contribute to solving real-world challenges and advancing understanding across disciplines.

By taking the time to reflect on your current skills in the context of your future plans and addressing any gaps, you set yourself up not only for successful research projects, but for a future rich with opportunity.

Research thrives when curiosity is matched with capability – and by investing in your own development, you will ensure your work has the greatest possible impact.

Macquarie University
Wallumattagal Campus
Macquarie Park NSW 2109
T: +61 (2) 9850 7111

mq.edu.au



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