From the analysis of Egyptian mummies, Roman pottery and ancient spells to investigations into the Gallipoli campaign and Australia’s war brides, Macquarie’s dynamic history and archaeology researchers are bringing an exciting new perspective to our understanding of the complex issues that shaped humanity’s past.

The scope of research in history and archaeology at Macquarie is unique in Australia. Our research spans periods from Eurasian and Australian prehistory to the present, using diverse archival and archaeological materials, and varying approaches from Big History to microstudies, including innovative reflection upon the nature of historical enquiry.

Our high-profile researchers – who include six Fellows of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, two Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and an ARC Future Fellow – have established valuable international collaborations with institutions such as the Universities of Cambridge, Chicago, Göttingen, Leipzig, London, Oxford and Tsinghua; British Museum; Louvre Museum; National Museum of Iran; Ministry of State for Antiquities, Egypt; Institute of Historical Research, London; Institut français d’archéologie orientale, Cairo; The New School, New York; and Quanzhou Maritime Museum, China.

Macquarie is home to the Big History Institute, which provides a hub for scholars interested in interdisciplinary research on the interconnected history of the cosmos, earth, life and humanity. Our Museum of Ancient Cultures houses Australia’s largest papyrological collection, while the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies is an internationally recognised leader in the study of ancient numismatics.

Our researchers also enjoy an international reputation as leaders in their fields. In the most recent Excellence in Research for Australia evaluation, our history and archaeology research received a rating of performance above world standard.

As a higher degree research candidate at Macquarie University, you’ll have the opportunity to conduct research alongside some of the world’s best scholars and have access to outstanding facilities.
AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

ANCIENT HISTORY

• Ancient Greek history and society
• Archaeology and history of ancient Israel
• Archaeology, numismatics and papyrology
• Archaeology of ancient Iran
• China, the Silk Road and Central Asia
• Coptic studies
• Early Christian and Jewish studies
• Egyptology
• Languages (Coptic, Egyptian, Greek, Hebrew, Latin)
• Late Antiquity and Byzantium
• Near Eastern art and archaeology
• Roman history and society

MODERN HISTORY

• Aboriginal history
• Australian history
• Big History
• Biography
• British history
• Early Atlantic and Pacific history
• Empire and postcolonial history
• Family history
• Gender and feminist history
• History of sexuality
• Literary history and historiography
• Media and popular culture
• Orientalism in history
• Renaissance Italy
• World history

RESEARCH HUBS

• Ancient Cultures Research Centre (incorporating the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre and the Australian Centre for Egyptology)
• Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies
• Australian History Museum
• Big History Institute
• Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience
• Museum of Ancient Cultures

OUR RESEARCH PRIORITIES

We pursue excellence in a broad range of research areas. Our five interdisciplinary strategic research priorities – Healthy People, Resilient Societies, Prosperous Economies, Secure Planet and Innovative Technologies – respond to globally significant challenges and opportunities to improve the lives of millions. Together, these research priorities provide a focal point for research, with discoveries made under these priorities translating into real improvements in the lives of local, national and global communities.

JOINTLY SUPERVISED PHD PROGRAMS

Macquarie actively encourages cotutelles and joint degrees – shared supervision arrangements with universities whose research activity strongly aligns with ours. Under each model, you are enrolled at two universities with a principal supervisor at each and may be eligible for additional scholarship support.

mq.edu.au/cotutelle-and-joint-phd