From research into reproductive and sexual health, infectious disease and contemporary religion to urban regeneration, climate adaptation and social housing, Macquarie’s human society researchers are uniquely positioned to help shape the complex issues that define the future of humanity.

Macquarie has a long and distinguished record of contributions in social theory, geographies of environment–human relations, contemporary sociology, and applied social research and policy.

Our research is driven by a critical approach to social theory and to the policy and social problems confronting Australian and global societies. Current scholars are contributing to many fields, including ethnic and migration studies, ageing, Australian and comparative social policy, healthcare, the sociology of children, precarious work, and the changing social significance of friendship. They are also working on migrant identity and belonging, social inclusion, climate change mitigation and adaptation, the environmental humanities, environmental management and political ecology, and Indigenous geographies and development studies of Australia and Asia-Pacific.

In recent times we have enjoyed valuable collaborations with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute; Australian Human Rights Commission; Australian Red Cross; Centre for Policy Development; Community Relations Commission; Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Department of Immigration and Border Protection; National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network; NSW Health and local government authorities, as well as with international institutions such as Asian Development Bank, Ibis Reproductive Health and the Stockholm Environment Institute.

Our researchers, who include Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and several Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies members, make key ideas and analyses accessible to a wide range of end users, including community and public sector groups, governments, industry and students, and are working to encourage innovative collaborations and co-productive partnerships with diverse stakeholders.

Our researchers also enjoy an international reputation as leaders in their fields. In the most recent Excellence in Research for Australia evaluation, our research in human geography, political science, sociology and cultural studies received a rating of performance at world standard.

As a higher degree research candidate at Macquarie University, you’ll benefit from the extensive expertise of our internationally respected and active social researchers whose focus is on research that is both critical and responsive to the needs of national and international communities.
AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research in education, identity, racism, astronomy, health, early childhood, art and Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal relations
- Animals and society
- Australian and comparative politics
- Chinese identities
- Class, gender and development in India
- Climate justice, mitigation and adaptation
- Criminology, cybercrime and policing
- Development and community capacity building
- Energy politics and security
- Environmental and social justice
- Environmental politics
- Europe and the European Union
- Foreign and defence policy, including Australian intelligence organisations
- Gender, sexuality and feminist studies
- Geographies of aid
- German cinema and theatre
- Globalisation
- HIV/AIDS, health and development, ethnic minorities and drug reduction programs in Southeast Asia
- Inclusion and exclusion in urban and regional spaces
- Indigenous environmental knowledges and management
- Indigenous research methodologies and ethics
- Indigenous self-determination and empowerment
- International relations
- Culture and diplomacy in Croatian and Polish Studies
- Medical anthropology and reproductive technologies
- Middle East and African politics
- Migration, multiculturalism, diasporas and nationalism
- Modern political theory
- Nationalism, supranationalism and the state
- Political ecologies of food and waste
- Politics in agricultural landscapes and hydrological systems
- Postcolonial studies
- Religion and social inclusion
- Secession
- Second language acquisition
- Security and terrorism studies
- Social vulnerability, adaptation and community participation
- Welfare, care and social policy

RESEARCH HUBS

- Climate Futures Research Centre
- Concentration of Research Excellence in Social, Cultural and Political Change
- Francophone Pacific Studies Research Cluster
- India Research Network
- Macquarie Public Health Research Network
- Risk Frontiers
- Soft Power Advocacy and Research Centre

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.