From research into sustainable urbanism, energy justice and Indigenous water rights to life in the Anthropocene, alternative food pathways and native title, Macquarie’s urban and regional planning researchers are uniquely positioned to help shape the complex issues that define the future of humanity.

Urban and regional planning research at Macquarie is characterised by interdisciplinary perspectives. Research among our team intersects with the fields of human geography, demography, environmental science and management, geographic information systems, law, and resilience to climate change.

Planning and urban governance have implications for the social and economic performance of cities and nations. Our research centres on unpacking the ways cities are managed and experienced by policy makers, the private sector and the urban public. A major emphasis of our research is practical engagement with, and assessment of, existing planning systems, with a focus on contemporary Sydney and New South Wales, as well as on the US, Europe and East Asia.

Our research makes key contributions to planning theory, especially in the realm of culture and representation, planning system regulations and reform, metropolitan and strategic planning, environmental planning and sustainability, social housing delivery and management, community participation in and resistance to planning and development, urban regeneration and renewal, transport, heritage, housing, master planning, migration, urban governance, and experiences and perceptions of home.

We have significant collaborations with the Department of Planning and Environment, Macquarie Park Forum, New South Wales Land and Housing Corporation, and Ryde and Ku-ring-gai Councils, as well as with international institutions such as Durham and York Universities, Queen Mary University of London, and the Universities of Glasgow and Tokyo.

As a higher degree research candidate at Macquarie, you will be encouraged to take an interdisciplinary approach to addressing contemporary environmental and planning challenges, thereby solving the big issues that matter to business and society.
Highlights

• Our researchers serve on a number of national bodies that have roles in policy, planning assessment and research grant adjudication, including the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, and the NSW Land and Environment Court.

• Senior researchers have strong international reputations in the field, regularly refereeing articles for international peer-reviewed journals; assessing proposals for ARC Discovery Grants; and authoring reports for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Economic and Social Research Council (UK) and National Science Foundation (US).

Support

You will be provided with individualised support, as well as a range of opportunities, at all stages of your research degree, including:

• higher degree research learning skills advisers who provide valuable training options such as workshops in research communication, presentation skills, academic writing skills, thesis planning and more
• inspirational supervision and mentoring
• a candidature management plan that closely supports progress, commencement programs, work-in-progress reviews, and presentations providing opportunities for feedback from a panel of academics
• real-world engagement with opportunities for cotutelle and joint degrees
• financial support for a range of research-related activities
• world-class facilities
• a transformative research experience that fosters cross-disciplinary collaboration.

RESEARCH LEADERS

Meet some of our internationally renowned researchers.

• **Dr Donna Houston** has a background in cultural studies, geography and planning, and has published in leading international journals in these fields. Her research focuses on environmental justice, environmental degradation and political ecologies of the city. She also has a research interest in urban planning processes and ‘rights to city’, and especially how policies and practices of urban consolidation, urban biodiversity and climate change can enable or constrain environmentally just and ecologically resilient urban formations. She is currently undertaking individual and collaborative research that explores urban toxicity through political ecologies of the home, urban planning systems and ‘multinatural’ justice, and the production and revitalisation of urban brownfields and wastelands.

• **Dr Kristian Ruming** is an urban geographer whose research interests centre on issues of housing and urban planning, with a specific focus on social housing provision, urban regeneration and planning system reform across Australia. He is currently undertaking research that explores new social housing provision and management structures being rolled out across New South Wales, planning system reform occurring across states and the impact of increased codification of development assessment on the structure and function of our cities, and the processes of ‘city-wide’ urban regeneration drawing on an assemblage theoretical framework. His research has been funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, the Australian Research Council, state government agencies and local councils.

FIND OUT MORE

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