Master of Spatial Science Research (MSSR) - MSpScRes
CRICOS code (International applicants): 066079J

This program is offered to continuing students only. No new admission will be accepted. Student who are interested in this area should consider the Master of Science (Research) (Spatial Science).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On-campus</th>
<th>External</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester intake:</td>
<td>No new admissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus:</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees:</td>
<td>Domestic full fee paying place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International full fee paying place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Training Program (RTP) - Fees Offset scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard duration:</td>
<td>3 semesters full-time, 6 semesters part-time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program articulation:</td>
<td>To: Doctor of Philosophy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact us

Current students

Ask a question
Freecall (within Australia): 1800 007 252
Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 2285
Email usq.support@usq.edu.au

Program objectives

The program is a postgraduate level research program in the fields of geodesy, surveying, photogrammetry, land management, geographic information systems or spatial science education.

The program is intended to allow students to enhance and extend their knowledge of a particular surveying or geographic information systems discipline area. The aim of the degree is to produce graduates who are skilled in spatial science investigation, evaluation and synthesis. Students who successfully complete the Master of Spatial Science Research should be able to demonstrate:

- strong communication skills
- a broad knowledge of the general discipline area of spatial science at an advanced level
- an extensive and detailed knowledge of one significant aspect of spatial science at a level that allows for the proposal and evaluation of innovative solutions to complex technical problems in that area
- an exhaustive knowledge of, and ability to access, sources of information about spatial science
- an ability to utilise sound research methodology and experimental design in an investigative study
- an awareness of the practical application(s), and the implications for professionals, of the research work that has been undertaken
- a high standard of written and verbal English language communication skill.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

Entry to this program will be restricted to students who have demonstrated a high level of ability at the undergraduate level, or who, in pursuit of their occupation or by other means, have demonstrated their ability
to successfully undertake studies at this level. Specifically, candidates shall normally be considered for admission to a quota place in the Master of Spatial Science Research if they either:

- hold a graduate diploma or four-year bachelor degree in surveying, geomatics, science, urban and regional planning or engineering awarded by an Australian university, or an equivalent qualification awarded by an overseas institution
- have demonstrated a high level of academic performance in these studies

or

- hold a three-year bachelor degree in science, geographic information systems or related field of study awarded by an Australian university, or an equivalent qualification awarded by an overseas institution
- have demonstrated a high level of academic performance in their undergraduate studies
- have completed a qualifying program of spatial science studies approved by the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences achieving a GPA of 5.0 or more in those studies

or

- have worked as a professional in the field of spatial science for a period of not less than five years and can provide documentary evidence, such as technical publications, that satisfies the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences that advanced knowledge has been acquired
- successfully complete an interview conducted by the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences or his/her nominee to assess the candidate's chance of success in the program.

All students are required to satisfy the applicable English language requirements.

If students do not meet the English language requirements they may apply to study a University-approved English language program. On successful completion of the English language program, students may be admitted to an award program.

**Program fees**

**Domestic full fee paying place**

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through the full fees paid by the student. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the Course Fee Finder.

Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called FEE-HELP provided they meet the residency and citizenship requirements.

Australian citizens, Permanent Humanitarian Visa holders, Permanent Resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens who will be resident outside Australia for the duration of their program pay full tuition fees and are not eligible for FEE-Help.

**International full fee paying place**

International students pay full fees. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken and whether they are studied on-campus, via distance education/online. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the Course Fee Finder.

**Research Training Program (RTP) - Fees Offset scheme**

All Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents and New Zealand citizens commencing a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program will have their tuition fees paid by the Australian Commonwealth Government under the Research Training Program (RTP) Fees Offset scheme. The RTP Fees Offset scheme covers program fees for an HDR student up to a maximum period of four years for full-time study or up to eight years part-time study for a Doctoral program, and up to a maximum period of two years for full-time or four years part-time for a Masters by Research program.

As part of the enrolment process, students are required to submit proof of citizenship or permanent residency status and transcripts of all previous academic study. This documentation enables the University of Southern Queensland to determine eligibility for an RTP Fees Offset place.
If a student's RTP Fees Offset entitlement expires before completion of the program, the student will be required to pay full tuition fees.

Students eligible for an RTP Fees Offset place are those who:

- have not used RTP Fees Offset funding in the previous three years; or
- have already used RTP Fees Offset funding and have successfully completed an HDR program. Once a student completes an HDR program, full entitlements of RTP Fees Offset are restored.

The Australian Commonwealth Government’s contribution to program fees must be acknowledged on all published material relating to a research project via a statement identifying the support received through the RTP Fees Offset scheme.

**Program structure**

The Master of Spatial Science Research involves a minimum of either three semesters of full-time research or six semesters of part-time research at the conclusion of which a candidate prepares and submits for examination, a thesis in research or design. Research topics are selected from areas of geodesy, surveying, photogrammetry, land management, geographic information systems (GIS) or spatial science education.

**Program completion requirements**

The Master of Spatial Science Research is comprised of 12 units of study, consisting of one unit of coursework and an 11 unit research project and dissertation.

Students will be required to complete the course ENG8001 Engineering Research Methods to satisfy the coursework component of the program.

For administrative purposes students will enrol in a selection of the courses listed below in order to complete the 11 unit research dissertation. The 11 units of research will be composed of individual courses ranging in size from one to four units. This provides students with the opportunity to undertake the program in either part-time or full-time mode. Full-time students normally enrol in four units for each term in which they engage in research activities. Part-time students normally enrol in two units for each term in which they engage in research activities.

Programs may be varied to suit the needs of individual students. Enrolment in the above courses is used to assess eligibility for scholarships and awards, and to levy program fees where appropriate, so it is important to consult with the Associate Dean (Research) when finalising enrolment for this program.

All of the courses listed below are ungraded courses, i.e. successful completion will be indicated by a Satisfactory Progress grade.

Some candidates may be required to complete additional coursework, up to a maximum of four single-unit courses, in areas relevant to their proposed field of study. The coursework requirements for each student will be determined by the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences in consultation with the student. Candidates would be expected to demonstrate a high level of achievement in any additional coursework courses.

**Required time limits**

Full-time students have a maximum of three years to complete this program. Part-time students have a maximum of six years to complete this program.

A pro-rata adjustment of the maximum time period will apply for those students who transfer from one mode of study to another. A pro-rata reduction in the maximum time period will apply to students who are admitted to a program with advanced standing.

**IT requirements**

Access to an up-to-date computer is necessary. On-campus students can access appropriately equipped laboratories, but should consider acquisition of their own computer. External students should be able to access a computer with the following minimum standards as advised by the University. All students should have access to email and the Internet via a computer running the latest versions of Internet web browsers such as...
Internet Explorer or Firefox. The University has a wireless network for on-campus students’ computers. In order to take advantage of this facility and further enhance their on-campus learning environment, students should consider purchasing a notebook/laptop computer with wireless connectivity. A notebook/laptop may be required for some courses.

Other program requirements
Students enrolling in this program by external mode will need to demonstrate that the educational objectives normally achieved by attendance on-campus are met by other means. This will normally require that:

- there is acceptable local day to day supervision
- the research project is related to their day to day work
- the student has access to adequate local facilities such as a library, laboratory and/or the technical support required to complete the research project
- communication with USQ staff is readily available via telephone, facsimile and/or email
- the USQ supervisor is able to visit the remote site as required
- the student is able to attend the USQ campus for supervision and/or seminars as directed.

Recommended enrolment pattern
Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied</th>
<th>Enrolment requirements</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On-campus (ONC)</td>
<td>External (EXT)</td>
<td>Online (ONL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Sem</td>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coursework Course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG8001 Engineering Research Methods</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG9011 Engineering Research Project A</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG9021 Engineering Research Project B</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG9041 Engineering Research Project D</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
Students must complete the course ENG8001 Engineering Research Methods and a combination for a total of 11 credit point units of the Independent Research in Engineering and Surveying courses. ENG8001 must be completed satisfactorily during the first term of study.

Programs may be varied to suit the needs of individual students. Enrolment in the above courses is used to assess eligibility for scholarships and awards, and to levy program fees where appropriate, so it is important to consult with the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences when finalising enrolment for this program.

All of the courses listed above (except ENG8001) are ungraded courses, i.e. successful completion will be indicated by a Satisfactory Progress grade. Some candidates may be required to complete additional coursework, up to a maximum of four single-unit courses, in areas relevant to their proposed field of study. The coursework requirements for each student will be determined by the Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences in consultation with the student. Candidates would be expected to demonstrate a high level of achievement in any additional coursework courses.