UNSW at a glance
UNSW At a Glance

At UNSW, we strive to honour our motto – Knowledge through heart, hand and mind. It is the foundation of our quest to improve lives, globally, through innovative research, transformative education and commitment to a just society.

UNSW’s first-class academics and professional staff, combined with state-of-the-art facilities, mean our students finish their studies with relevant, highly sought after skills. And we invite them back to continue learning with us over the course of their lives.

Our graduates are among the highest rated for employer satisfaction and UNSW has the most students in Australia’s top 100 future leaders.

In recognition of our innovative and pioneering research, we have risen to be a top 50 global university.

Over the decades we have forged national and international networks because we know that collaboration and a shared vision for the future are key to helping us solve society’s greatest challenges.

And here on our campuses we embrace diversity, equity and inclusion, not only because this ensures true excellence, but because we want all who are part of our community to fully share the vibrant and life-changing environment of UNSW.

I invite you to experience all that this world-class university has to offer.

Professor Attila Brungs
Vice-Chancellor and President
UNSW Sydney

"A great university should be a global leader in discovery, innovation, impact, education and thought leadership. UNSW draws on its unique history of evolving with the needs of society to drive education and research that has a positive effect on lives around the world."

Professor Attila Brungs
Australia’s global university

> Established 1949

We are a powerhouse of cutting-edge research, teaching and innovation.

We are improving lives through excellence in research and education, and a commitment to advancing a just society.

UNSW is a founding member of both the Group of Eight, a coalition of Australia’s leading research-intensive universities, and the prestigious Universitas 21 international network.

We have partnerships with major universities across the world to amplify our expertise and help solve the world’s biggest issues.

2021 AGGREGATE RANKING OF TOP UNIVERSITIES (ARTU)
UNSW benchmarks itself on the three main global league tables. When our results are compared against other universities globally, for these three rankings in 2021, UNSW is placed 50th in the world.

45th
2023 QS World University Rankings

71st
2023 Times Higher Education Rankings

64th
2022 Academic Ranking of World Universities

MOST EMPLOYABLE STUDENTS
AFR Top 100 Future Leaders Awards 2022 - 42 winners out of 100 from UNSW.

> Seven faculties
Arts, Design & Architecture
Business
Engineering
Law & Justice
Medicine & Health
Science
UNSW Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy
Fast facts

65,600
Total students

42,654
Local students

22,946
International students

4,358
Higher degree research candidates

353,612
Alumni

3,081
Academic staff

3,422
Professional staff

106,548
Online course enrolments

47
Schools

54
Centres and institutes

17
Residential colleges and apartments with 4,100 beds offered on campus

38ha
Kensington campus size

Student data for 2021 submitted to TCSI.
Staff FTFT 2021 data submitted to HEIMS (as at 31 March 2021).
Academic excellence

We are delivering life-changing research and shaping the future of higher education.

No. 1

IN AUSTRALIA FOR RESEARCH QUALITY AND IMPACT
(Excellence in Research for Australia and Engagement & Impact 2018 outcomes)

$3.3B
research income over the last five years

12,831
research publications in 2021

4,358
higher degree research candidates in 2021

777
Higher degree research completions in 2021

“UNSW is committed to transformative, impactful research across the range of disciplines and to developing and investing in outstanding researchers at all stages of their careers.”

Professor Nicholas Fisk
Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Enterprise

Brightest minds

UNSW invests in strategic recruitment initiatives to attract the best and brightest minds, from PhD students, through early and mid-career researchers, to established world-leading academics.

Powerhouse partnerships

Our strategic partnerships help us realise real-world impact and our research is recognised on the global stage. Some of these partnerships include:

• The George Institute for Global Health
• PLuS Alliance with Arizona State University and King’s College London
• NUW Alliance with the University of Newcastle, the University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University
• Torch Innovation Precinct at UNSW
• UNSW Defence Research Institute
• Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE)
• TEDI-London
• International Universities Climate Alliance
• Sydney Quantum Academy
• The Poverty and Inequality Partnership with the Australian Council of Social Services

Research strengths

• Biomedical sciences
• Water, climate, environment and sustainability
• Next generation materials and technologies
• Social policy, government and health policy
• ICT, robotics and devices
• Law, business and economics
• Fundamental and enabling sciences
• Contemporary humanities and creative arts
• Defence and security

Pictured left: Professor Rebecca Guy received the Australian Academy of Science Gustav Nossal Medal for Global Health for her public health work for vulnerable communities.
A culture of innovation

Our vision is to engage with government, industry and the community to translate our waste recycling technology research into economic, environmental and social benefit for all.

"Environmental benefits aside, our scientifically developed microrecycling technology helps drive the emerging circular economy and achieve decarbonisation, as well as create jobs and enhance social and economic outcomes."

Scientia Professor Veena Sahajwalla
Director of the UNSW Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology

NSW Australian of the Year 2022, Professor Veena Sahajwalla, with examples of the 'green ceramics' used at the Pavilions apartment complex in Sydney.

UNSW hosts the world's first e-waste MICROfactorie™ – a facility that extracts components from discarded electronics, such as smartphones and laptops, and reforms the materials for new uses. It's also home to a commercial-scale plastics and green ceramics MICROfactorie™ that reforms waste plastics into filament for 3D printing, and wastes such as glass and textiles into engineered ceramics and flat panel building products.

These facilities use innovative microrecycling methods scientifically developed through research at UNSW's Sustainable Materials Research and Technology (SmART) Centre, which is led by scientist, engineer and sustainability innovator Professor Veena Sahajwalla.

No. 1
Australian university overall for aspiring entrepreneurs

No. 1
in Australia and 26th worldwide for producing the most innovative, creative and entrepreneurial graduates (alumni outcomes)

No. 1
Australian publicly funded research organisation for new spinout companies launched based on technologies and intellectual property developed at UNSW

200+
Startups born every year out of the UNSW community

42%
Female co-founders of UNSW startups (as at September 2022)

25%
The Australian's Top 100 innovators list herald from UNSW

A world leader in RNA research

The UNSW RNA Institute was launched in 2022, with a $25 million investment from the University to build NSW’s capability to research, develop and manufacture RNA-based therapeutics locally. The Institute is part of the NSW RNA Bioscience Alliance, a partnership across 14 universities in NSW and the ACT and the NSW RNA Production and Research Network.
Social impact

UNSW leads discussions on the challenges of our times, translating our discoveries into positive social change.

Our goal is to improve the quality of life for people in Australia and around the world, through partnerships, thought leadership, engagement with decision-makers, sustainable development, and a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

To increase our social impact, UNSW has committed to expanding our access rate for first-year students from underrepresented schools and backgrounds to 25 per cent over the next five years.

OUR INDIGENOUS STRATEGY
UNSW’s first Indigenous Strategy is our framework for Indigenous education, employment and research. We foster research excellence and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and leaders who will make an impact in their communities, both nationally and globally.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
We tackle real-world problems through partnerships that bring together our students, staff, alumni and the community, aligning our efforts with UNSW’s expertise and research strengths and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We ranked joint fifth in the world and joint first in Australia in the 2022 QS World University Sustainability Rankings for our work in tackling the world’s greatest environmental, social and governance challenges.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
Our vision is to be recognised as an international exemplar in equity, diversity and inclusion. The diversity and cultural richness of our communities underpins our success, and we ensure our students and staff achieve their full potential regardless of their background. UNSW graduates will carry these positive values into their future lives.
Leadership in the public interest

We are leading discussions on the challenges of our time and are working to ensure our research benefits our global community.

UNSW's vision is to lead public debate based on evidence and critical thought and promote informed discussion on the most pressing issues facing humanity.

Our academics are relied upon by government and media for their expertise in explaining the complexities of every-day issues affecting society. They’ve been a trusted source of knowledge and advice on issues such as COVID-19, bushfires, floods and climate change, an Indigenous Voice to Parliament and many more.

The UNSW Centre for Ideas welcomes Director of the US National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, Dr Anthony S. Fauci, to speak at its inaugural David Cooper Lecture in 2021.

The UNSW Centre for Ideas presents a thought-provoking program of events and digital content from the globe’s leading thinkers, including writer Roxane Gay, philosopher AC Grayling, economist Thomas Piketty, Nobel Prize winners Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo and leading epidemiologist Dr Anthony S. Fauci. The Centre is also principal partner of the Festival of Dangerous Ideas in Sydney – a champion of courageous public conversations and debate.

"To me thought leadership is about playing a role in debating the key issues facing Australia and our region. As academics, our role in this debate is also distinct – it is to make sure that our conversations are open, reasoned and evidence-based. I have relished the opportunity to play this role as part of my work at UNSW, especially in partnership with the Centre for Ideas."

Scientia Professor Rosalind Dixon
Climate change pioneers

We are a world-leader in climate change research and renewable energy innovation.

UNSW is committed to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to net zero and will divest from investments in companies whose primary business is the ownership and exploitation of fossil fuel reserves by 2025.

The landmark move furthers our commitment to action on climate change.

Solar superstars

UNSW Scientia Professor Martin Green (pictured below) was awarded the 2022 Millennium Technology Prize for transforming the production of solar energy. The research group he founded at UNSW Engineering is the largest university-based photovoltaic research group in the world.

UNSW’s Sunswift represents more than 25 years of solar car development at UNSW. Students design and build solar electric car prototypes and they hold a Guinness World Record for the most efficient electric car to travel across Australia, consuming just 3.33kwh/100km.

“We have some of the best scientific and business minds in the world right here at home, and we need to harness that capability to deliver action to reduce global carbon emissions urgently.”

Scientia Professor Matthew England
UNSW Climate Change Research Centre
A world-class education

UNSW’s vision is to be among the very best universities in the world for excellence in education, employability, and the student experience more broadly. We welcome students from all over Australia and around the world, who attend UNSW for the distinctiveness of our education in and beyond the classroom, and graduate futures that see our alumni making an impact across the community, government and industry, nationally and globally.

UNSW students enjoy a vibrant campus, which has many cafes, restaurants, bars, fitness facilities, sports fields, libraries, quiet spaces, open spaces, and award-winning student accommodation. The multimillion dollar Village Green Sport and Wellness precinct opened in October 2022 and expects to transform student life on campus.

There are also more than 300 student clubs and societies to explore, with activities ranging from academia and culture to sports and hobbies. Seventy-eight per cent of our students belong to at least one club or society.

Global enrichment

UNSW was Australia’s first international university, welcoming international scholarship students under the Colombo Plan in 1952. Since 2014, more than 2,000 undergraduate students have studied across the Asia Pacific under the Federal Government’s New Colombo Plan.

Many thousands of undergraduate and postgraduate students have also studied around the world through our exchange, short programs, and global work integrated learning opportunities. We also welcome visiting international students through our exchange, study abroad coursework and research practicum programs.

All our global mobility programs deepen people-to-people relationships and strengthen institutional and industry relationships between UNSW and the world, while adding to the diversity of our student cohorts.

Lifelong learning

UNSW offers a range of short courses, graduate certificates and graduate diplomas to provide students with opportunities to learn, grow and enrich their professional development throughout their working lives.

In 2022, we launched Mentem by UNSW, a new workplace learning business that offers contextualised education programs to industry and government organisations, to help them meet current and future skills shortages. Mentem repackages the University’s higher education content across a spectrum of disciplines, including digital literacy, data analytics and business process modelling, and customises it to suit each client’s needs.

Mentem has already been recognised for its groundbreaking approach to the reality of marketplace demands outstripping employee skills. It received the prestigious 2022 Australian Good Design Award for its work with McKinsey & Company and the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW) on building a future-ready workforce program for employees at DRNSW.

> Top markets of origin
Longstanding links with China

We were the first Australian university to establish a memorandum of understanding with the China Scholarship Council to provide pathways for research students undertaking doctoral studies. Today, tens of thousands of Chinese students are alumni and UNSW is a preferred destination in Australia for higher education students from China.

In 2016, UNSW established the first industry-led Torch precinct outside China. The UNSW Torch precinct is a premier destination for innovation and entrepreneurship. It showcases collaborations between Chinese and Australian researchers and industry, who are working to translate knowledge into impact that can transform lives globally. Torch at UNSW has led to $88m in research contracts to 30 June 2022, with more than 200 projects involving 125 businesses from China, Australia and other countries.

UNSW has several other collaborations with Chinese partners, which foster research acceleration and commercialisation and mutual understanding and opportunities for our academic and student communities.

The India effect

UNSW has a number of strategic partnerships with organisations in India that help facilitate research collaborations and educational exchanges between the two countries. It’s through these connections we help build capacity in India’s higher education system, by applying UNSW’s cutting-edge curriculum tailored to a 21st century India.

Our international reach and partnerships are helping improve lives globally, from China and India to Europe and the US.

UNSW has extensive international research networks, myriad global partners, and diverse international student cohorts.

We are connected to more than 200 partner universities across 39 countries and our international students come from 120 countries around the world.

“By working together and exchanging knowledge with international research partners, we can make significant progress towards solving the world’s greatest challenges.”

Dax Kukulj
Director, Knowledge Exchange (Acting)

22nd

In the world, 2022 Times Higher Education most international universities

1,675

research projects with international collaborators from 72 countries in 2021

8,307

joint publications from UNSW researchers and collaborators from 182 countries in 2021
Investing in the future

Our alumni, donors and volunteers are integral to our community. Because of them, UNSW can invest more in educational and research excellence, challenging inequality, and building world-class facilities.

Hundreds of ground-breaking research projects are given life through generous philanthropic investments, which can often change the course of history.

Since 2015, UNSW has raised more than $450m in philanthropic funds towards:

> Life-changing medical research across cancer, dementia, infectious disease, mental health and much more

> Addressing environmental challenges and tackling the broad impacts of climate change

> Advancing human rights in Australia and around the world including gendered violence, displaced peoples, Indigenous rights, and more

> Supporting access to higher education for under-represented students or those experiencing disadvantage.

Our global alumni network is a powerful force for good, creating priceless opportunities and supporting the next generation through mentoring, volunteering and career development.

"Building a culture of giving back is at the heart of all we strive to achieve at UNSW. It is what we instil into our students, and it is how we approach our research.

"That is why the impact of our success extends far beyond our University, helping to improve the communities in which we live and work. This is a small window into the enormous potential of philanthropy to change both the lives of individuals and broader society, for the better."

David Gonski AC
Chancellor

Pictured left: Valued alumna, actress, writer and producer Rebel Wilson, who holds a double degree in Law and Arts from UNSW, shared her experience with students at a Q&A led by then Dean of Law, Professor George Williams.
Modern campus

We’re committed to significantly investing in world-class research and teaching facilities through award-winning campus developments.

> The Esme Timbery Creative Practice Lab supports teaching and practice-led research across a diverse range of disciplines including theatre and performance, film, media, creative writing and music.

> The emerging Randwick Health & Innovation Precinct is set to be the largest co-located health, innovation and education zone in NSW - helping drive better healthcare, research and outcomes for patients.
Perfect location

- **Sydney Centre**: 20 minutes by bus
- **UNSW Canberra**: 3 hours by car
- **UNSW Pathways**: 38ha
- **Sydney Airport**: 20 minutes by car
- **UNSW Art & Design**: 10 minutes by bus
- **Bondi Junction**: 20 minutes by bus
- **Bondi Beach**: 20 minutes by car
- **Coogee Beach**: 8 minutes by bus

> You can experience UNSW’s Sydney campuses from anywhere in the world by taking a 360° Tour of the University. Get a closer look at the fantastic facilities, view the inspiring study and research spaces, and hear from world-class academics.

360tour.unsw.edu.au
Still curious?

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