Master of Spatial Science Research (MSSR) - MSpScRes

CRICOS code (International applicants): 066079J

Admission 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 if they either:

- hold a graduate diploma or four-year bachelor degree in surveying, geomatics, science, urban and regional planning or engineering awarded by 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 bachelors 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 Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying 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 Dean of the Faculty that advanced knowledge has been acquired
- successfully complete an interview conducted by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying or his/her nominee to assess the candidate's chance of success in the program.
  International candidates for admission into this program must meet the University's English language proficiency requirements for postgraduate students. Please refer to Section 2.2.3 of the Admissions Policy .

How to apply

Applications for Research Master and Doctorate programs should be made directly to USQ.

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. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the Course Fee Finder.
Permanent Humanitarian Visa holders, Permanent Resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens who reside outside Australia pay full tuition fees.
Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called 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. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the Course Fee Finder.

Research training scheme (RTS)

The Research Training Scheme (RTS) provides Commonwealth-funded higher degree by research (HDR) students with an ‘entitlement’ to an exemption from course fees for the equivalent of four years full-time study in an accredited HDR program. If a student's RTS entitlement expires before they have completed their program they will be required to pay full tuition fees. As there may be limited RTS places available, some students may be required to pay fees for all or part of their program. The USQ Office of Research and Higher Degrees will advise students of their eligibility for an RTS place.

Program structure

The Master of Spatial Science involves a minimum of either three terms of full-time research or six terms 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 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 and Surveying Research Methodology 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 Associate Dean (Research) in consultation with the Head of Discipline, the student and the project supervisors and approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying. 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