

# INTRODUCTION TO MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Macquarie University has developed from a small, innovative institution in Sydney's north to a multifaceted university in what has become one of Australia's leading high-technology locations. Keeping faith with its founders' fresh ideas about university teaching and organisation, Macquarie has continued to be a pioneer in Australian higher education. Its interdisciplinary approach produces graduates with wide career opportunities. The University offers programs of study leading to the traditional degrees of Bachelor and Master, as well as numerous degrees named to indicate the area of specialisation. Macquarie has consistently encouraged mature-age students to enrol, a trend that has proven beneficial to the entire student body.

The University advocates the strong link between teaching and research: teaching staff are often at the forefront of their research fields, with resultant advantages for their students.

## Establishment of the University

The University, consisting of Council, Convocation, and graduate and undergraduate members, was established by the *Macquarie University Act 1964*. This was repealed by the *Macquarie University Act 1989*. Section 6(2) of the Act provides that the functions of the University should include:

- (a) the provision of facilities for education and research of university standard,
- (b) the encouragement of the dissemination, advancement, development and application of knowledge informed by free inquiry,
- (c) the provision of courses of study or instruction across a range of fields, and the carrying out of research, to meet the needs of the community,
- (d) the participation in public discourse,
- (e) the conferring of degrees, including those of Bachelor, Master and Doctor, and the awarding of diplomas, certificates and other awards,
- (f) the provision of teaching and learning that engage with advanced knowledge and inquiry,
- (g) the development of governance, procedural rules, admission policies, financial arrangements and quality assurance processes that are underpinned by the values and goals referred to in the functions set out in this subsection, and that are sufficient to ensure the integrity of the University's academic programs.

The New South Wales Government had already, in November 1963, set up an Interim Council to guide the

establishment of the University, and with the proclamation of the 1964 Act this Interim Council became the University's first Council. The University accepted a small number of postgraduate students in 1966 and began the teaching of undergraduates in 1967. It was the third university to be established in the metropolitan area of Sydney. Macquarie University is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

The name 'Macquarie' commemorates Major-General Lachlan Macquarie (1762–1824), Governor of the Colony of New South Wales, 1810–1821, whose genius for administration and vision of the future of the colony led to the first considerable developments in organised finance and commerce, inland exploration and settlement, fine architecture, and patronage of the arts and literature.

## The University Council

The *Macquarie University Act 1989* provides for 19 members of the University Council. As constituted under section 9 of the Act, three members are elected by the academic staff and one by the professional staff of the University; four are elected by Convocation and one by students proceeding to a degree or diploma at the University. Six members are appointed by the Minister for Education, and Council itself may appoint one additional member. The Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-President of Academic Senate are members of the Council *ex officio*.

## Convocation

Convocation consists of all members and past members of the Council, all graduates and diplomates of the University, all full-time members of the University's academic staff and certain other members of staff, and such other persons as may be admitted to membership. There is a Standing Committee of Convocation consisting of the Vice-Chancellor and the Chair of the Finance Committee of Council (both *ex officio*) and twelve members elected from and by the members of Convocation.

## Academic Senate

The body principally responsible for academic matters is the Academic Senate. It has certain powers delegated to it by the University Council, such as the approving of examination results and the completion of requirements for the award of degrees. It also makes recommendations to Council concerning all changes to degree rules, and all proposals for new awards.

## Academic Organisation

A new academic structure takes effect for Macquarie University in 2009, comprising four Faculties (previously nine Divisions). The simpler, more flexible structure will allow Macquarie University to strengthen and develop teaching and research and will promote more effective cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to learning and problem-solving, teaching and research.

### Faculty of Arts

*Acting Executive Dean:* Professor Ingrid Day

Department of Ancient History  
 Department of Anthropology  
 Department of English  
 Department of Indigenous Studies—Warawara  
 Department of International Studies  
 Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies  
 Department of Modern History, Politics, International Relations and Security  
 Department of Philosophy  
 Department of Sociology  
 Macquarie Law School

### Faculty of Business and Economics

*Executive Dean:* Professor Mark Gabbott

Applied Finance Centre  
 Department of Accounting and Finance  
 Department of Actuarial Studies  
 Department of Business  
 Department of Business Law  
 Department of Economics  
 Macquarie Graduate School of Management

### Faculty of Human Sciences

*Executive Dean:* Professor Janet Greeley

Australian School of Advanced Medicine  
 Department of Education  
 Department of Linguistics  
 Department of Psychology  
 Institute of Early Childhood  
 Institute of Human Cognition and Brain Science

### Faculty of Science

*Executive Dean:* Professor Stephen Thurgate

Department of Biological Sciences  
 Department of Brain, Behaviour and Evolution  
 Department of Chemistry and Biomolecular Sciences  
 Department of Chiropractic  
 Department of Computing  
 Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences  
 Department of Environment and Geography  
 Department of Mathematics  
 Department of Physics and Engineering  
 Department of Statistics

## Research

Macquarie University's mission and goals position research as one of its highest priorities. A Research Office, under the direction of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) was established early in 1989, to administer the University's research policies and to promote liaison with industry and the business community. Research in specific areas is undertaken by staff attached to the various research centres formally constituted within the Divisions. Additionally, some special research centres are supported by Commonwealth funding.

The Macquarie University Research Park was officially launched in May 1996 by the Federal Minister for Science and Technology. It is a joint venture between a private sector company and the University.

## The Macquarie Campus

The University is located on a 126-hectare site at North Ryde, approximately 18 kilometres north-west of the central business district of the City of Sydney. The campus, once the site of orchards and market gardens, now bears many thousands of indigenous and exotic trees. In this wooded parkland setting a sculpture park features works by some of Australia's leading sculptors.

For teaching, research, and administrative purposes there are about 35 buildings on campus, together with the University Library, the U@MQ complex, the theatres and a printery. In the surrounding areas are affiliated residential colleges, parking, sporting facilities and a biological resources area.

## Services and Resources

Detailed information on the services, facilities and resources provided by the University for students and staff is given in the following pages. Furthermore, the University is geographically well suited to serve additionally as a centre of cultural, recreational and intellectual interest for a large part of the metropolitan area of Sydney. The University's resources are used by members of the general community, who may visit the University to attend concerts, dramatic performances, public lectures, conferences, astronomical observations and sporting events.

## Social Legislation

The University complies with State and Commonwealth government legislation in matters of equal opportunity, occupational health and safety, freedom of information, and records.