JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
SINGAPORE

Excel with **Higher Degrees by Research**

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
Townsville | Singapore | Cairns | Brisbane

1 university • 2 countries • 4 distinct locations

Creating a brighter future for life in the Tropics and beyond, through education and research that makes a difference locally, and globally.

The Singapore campus of James Cook University

Established in 2003

The Singapore campus of James Cook University is fully owned by James Cook University Australia, which is ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world[1]. James Cook University Australia established its Singapore campus in 2003 as part of its expressed intent of internationalising its activities and offers a suite of university level programs at the Singapore campus covering the areas of Business, Information Technology, Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Science, Commerce, Accounting, Aquaculture, Environmental Science, Cybersecurity, Economics, Tourism and Hospitality.

James Cook University offers Higher Degree by Research programs such as Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Philosophy and pathways to a higher degree.

Additionally, the campus offers courses at the pre-university level, specifically designed to provide pathways for students who are unable to immediately meet university entrance standards.

The Singapore campus of James Cook University is located at Sims Drive. The campus provides students with access to a full range of facilities and services to support their learning. These include lecture and seminar rooms, library and associated study facilities, computer laboratories, aquaculture research and teaching facility, financial lab and access to a variety of sporting facilities.

James Cook University Inter-campus Exchange Program*

James Cook University provides the opportunity for students to study in Singapore and in Australia. This is a unique program designed to ensure that students get the best possible outcomes from their years of study with the university, which operates across two countries. Students will get to experience international study environments within one study journey, with exposure to diverse cultures, communities, and ways of life.

EduTrust Star

James Cook University has the highest level of quality assurance in Singapore for Private Education Institutions. This is known as EduTrust Star and is a symbol of recognition for outstanding achievement. EduTrust Star is awarded to those institutions for attaining a commendable level of performance in managing their institutions and providing an outstanding quality of education and welfare for their students.

James Cook University is the first organisation with EduTrust Star. By obtaining this award for the third time in 2023, James Cook University has displayed its commitment and focus as a student centric educational institution.

Tropical Futures Institute

Given that research is a core component of the university, James Cook University established the Tropical Futures Institute to leverage off the university's research capability and strength and that creates substantive value-add to the research ecosystems of Singapore and the ASEAN region. The Tropical Futures Institute is the first research institute established by an Australian university in Singapore.

James Cook Institute

James Cook Institute is a wholly-owned subsidiary of James Cook University in Singapore that offers short courses and training programs in Industry 4.0 and areas that fit the needs of the workforce and community. This includes a wide range of short courses and training programs in information technology, digital marketing, communication, and more.

James Cook Institute is committed to further diversifying and enhancing its short course offerings, as well as delivering customised training programs for corporate clients to provide more people with the opportunity to upgrade their skills and stay relevant and employable in today's ever-changing world.

[1] 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings and 2024 ShanghaiRanking Academic Ranking of World Universities as a percentage of higher education providers in the International Association of Universities (IAU) database

* Terms and conditions apply

edutrust SINGAPORE STAR
Cert No. : EDU-1-1001
Validity : 10/04/2023 - 09/04/2027

Higher degrees by research comprise a program of supervised original research in a chosen discipline.

James Cook University's higher degree by research programs are structured with clear candidature milestones to ensure you are provided with feedback and support at each stage of candidature.

If you do not have sufficient research experience, JCU offers research qualifying courses (pathways to a higher degree). The right course for you depends on the level of study and the amount of research you have previously undertaken.

Note: International students in Singapore on a Student Pass are not permitted to work. For more information please visit www.ica.gov.sg

James Cook University is EduTrust-certified. The EduTrust Certification Scheme (EduTrust) is a quality assurance scheme administered and governed by Skills and Workforce Development Agency (SWDA) for Private Education Institutions (PEIs) in Singapore. The EduTrust Certification Scheme requires all students to be covered under the Fee Protection Scheme (FPS). In James Cook University, this is provided through Fee Protection Scheme Group Insurance. All students from James Cook University are covered hospitalization, surgery and treatment costs in accordance to insurance policy term and conditions under the Group Hospitalisation and Surgical insurance scheme. James Cook University will advise in the Standard Student Contract the total amount of insurance payable.

For more details please visit Skills and Workforce Development Agency (SWDA) website: https://www.swda.gov.sg/

Doctor of Philosophy

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a program of supervised original research. It culminates in the submission of a thesis that demonstrates the ability for critical analysis and research that makes a significant and original contribution to the knowledge and understanding of the field of study.

Your research topic

Applicants need to discuss their proposed research topic with an appropriate research supervisor. Please contact us for details.

You can check the information on potential research advisors in our website *https://www.jcu.edu.sg/research/research-capability-statement*

James Cook University will form an advisory panel comprised of a Primary and Secondary Advisor and, in some cases, an Advisor Mentor to assist Higher Degree by Research candidates in their research journey.

Potential fields of research include aquaculture, banking and finance, cybersecurity, education, game design, IOT, management and commerce, marine ecology, psychology, social and health sciences, tourism, and interdisciplinary topics. Other themes can be arranged to meet the needs of candidates.

Career Prospects:

The Doctor of Philosophy is an essential prerequisite for research and academic careers in most disciplines. Candidates can also look for R&D opportunities in a variety of industry sectors, NGO and government agencies.

Study Program

Candidates are required to complete the following core subject.

One of the below

Doctor of Philosophy Research Thesis (Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies)
Doctor of Philosophy Research Thesis (Education)
Doctor of Philosophy Research Thesis (Health)
Doctor of Philosophy Research Thesis (Information Technology)
Doctor of Philosophy Research Thesis (Management and Commerce)
Doctor of Philosophy (Natural and Physical Sciences)
Doctor of Philosophy Research Thesis (Society and Culture)

Duration: 4 years full time or 8 years part time

Intake: March, July, October

Total Tuition Fees*: S$149,624.30 (International)
S$139,618.10 (Domestic)**

** Effective for students commencing from Trimester 2, 2026. Tuition fees are subject to change in following years.*
*** Fees apply to all Singapore residents (Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and all pass holders excluding those holding a Student Pass).*

Note:
- All course fees include the corresponding 9% Singapore Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The details of the instalment breakdown will be provided in your Student Contract. Please contact us for further details.

Entry Requirements

Doctor of Philosophy

Entry Requirements

All applicants must normally demonstrate academic capacity at a satisfactory level (Grade Point Average of Credit or equivalent) in their final year of coursework study that was used as part of the basis for admission.

Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to undertake research at the Doctoral level by the attainment of at least one of the following:

- A Bachelor's degree with at least Second Class Honours in a degree program that included a total of 12 credit points of supervised project work, the results of which contributed to the Honours grade; or
- A postgraduate qualification which included: supervised research component(s) of at least 12 credit points graded at the equivalent of Distinction or above; or
- A Research Masters degree, where at least two thirds of the degree consisted of a supervised research component and resulted in the production of a thesis or equivalent; or
- A combination of qualifications, research training and experience, considered equivalent to the above and deemed appropriate by the university, e.g., senior authorship of at least one peer-reviewed publication plus completion of an appropriate research methods subject.

Note: Candidates who do not meet any of the above may apply for a higher degree pathway offered in the form of the Graduate Certificate of Research Methods or the Graduate Diploma of Research Methods.

English Requirements

- Applicants of non-English speaking backgrounds must meet the English language proficiency requirements of IELTS 6.5 (no component lower than 6.0) / TOEFL (Internet Based) 86 (no component less than 21) / Pearson PTE Academic 58 (no component less than 54); or
- Satisfactory completion of James Cook University Singapore English Language Preparatory Program (ELPP); or
- Successful completion of other qualifications completed in English Language deemed comparable to Australian standards on a case-by-case basis in accordance to JCU admissions guidelines

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applicants seeking to transfer their Higher Degree by Research candidature from another Australian University should consult with the Graduate Research School.

"The high quality of higher-degree opportunities, and well-experienced and recognised advisors with publications in high-impact journals in psychology led me to select this study program at James Cook University."

Kristoper Himalshi Poornima Serasinghe
Doctor of Philosophy, 2024

Master of Philosophy

The Master of Philosophy offers postgraduate research supervision on a smaller scale than the PhD, towards which it can provide a pathway.

The Master of Philosophy is a research degree designed for graduates from various disciplines who wish to pioneer new knowledge and present the culmination of their research via a thesis.

You will do an integrated research project that culminates in the submission of a thesis and demonstrates the capacity for critical analysis and original research.

Your research topic

Applicants need to discuss their proposed research topic with an appropriate research supervisor. Please contact us for details.

James Cook University will form an advisory panel comprised of a Primary and Secondary Advisor to assist Higher Degree by Research candidates in their research journey.

Potential fields of research include aquaculture, banking and finance, cybersecurity, education, game design, IOT, management and commerce, marine ecology, psychology, social and health sciences, tourism, and interdisciplinary topics. Other themes can be arranged to meet the needs of candidates.

Study Program

Candidates are required to complete the following core subject.

One of the below

Master of Philosophy Research Thesis (Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies)
Master of Philosophy Research Thesis (Education)
Master of Philosophy Research Thesis (Health)
Master of Philosophy Research Thesis (Information Technology)
Master of Philosophy Research Thesis (Management and Commerce)
Master of Philosophy Research Thesis (Society and Culture)

Duration: 2 years full time or 4 years part time

Intake: March, July, October

Total Tuition Fees*: S$75,308.10 (International)
S$70,228.70 (Domestic)**

** Effective for students commencing from Trimester 2, 2026. Tuition fees are subject to change in following years..*
*** Fees apply to all Singapore residents (Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and all pass holders excluding those holding a Student Pass).*

Note:
- All course fees include the corresponding 9% Singapore Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The details of the instalment breakdown will be provided in your Student Contract. Please contact us for further details.

Entry Requirements

Master of Philosophy

Entry Requirements

- The attainment of a bachelor's degree with either a GPA of at least 5.5 in the final full-time year of study, or with demonstrated research experience;
- A postgraduate degree of at least one year full-time equivalent with a GPA of at least 5.0;
- A bachelor's degree plus at least 2 years relevant experience; or
- Other qualifications and/or experience to satisfy the College Dean that the candidate is suitably qualified for entry will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Scan for more information:

http://jcu.sg/hdrqr

English Requirements

Academic IELTS - Overall score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component; or TOEFL Internet-based score of 86 with a minimum score of 21 in each component; or Pearson (PTE Academic) - score of 58 with a minimum of 54 in each component. (English test results must be less than 2 years old to start date of course.)

Pathways to a Higher Degree

Graduate Certificate of Research Methods

Study Program

Students are required to complete 2 subjects (12 credit points) as follows.

CORE SUBJECTS

Research Planning

Research Project

Duration: 6 months full time
1 year part time

Course Structure: 2 subjects in 1 term

Intake: Term 1 (January to June)
Term 2 (July to December)

Total Tuition Fees*: S$15,020.20 (International)
S$14,279 (Domestic)**

** Effective for students commencing from Trimester 2, 2026. Tuition fees are subject to change in following years..*
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Note:
- All course fees include the corresponding 9% Singapore Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The details of the instalment breakdown will be provided in your Student Contract. Please contact us for further details.

Entry Requirements

Entry Requirements

Completion of at least a 4-year AQF level 7 bachelor degree or an AQF level 8 qualification in a relevant discipline, with a minimum grade point average of 5.0 (credit average) in the final year; and a grade of credit (65%) or better in a minimum of one research methods or analysis subject; or other qualifications recognised by the University as equivalent.

Course Articulation

Students seeking admission to a research higher degree should consult the University's Higher Degree by Research Requirements.

(Website:https://www.jcu.edu.au/policy/research-education/higher-degree-by-research-requirements)

Students seeking admission to a Master of Philosophy must have obtained at least a GPA 5.0 (Credit) for the supervised research component of the Graduate Certificate of Research Methods *(Research Planning & Research Project)*.

Students seeking admission to a Doctorate of Philosophy must have obtained at least a GPA 6.0 (Distinction) for the supervised research component of the Graduate Certificate of Research Methods *(Research Planning & Research Project)*.

English Requirements

- Applicants of non-English speaking backgrounds must meet the English language proficiency requirements of IELTS 6.5 (no component lower than 6.0) / TOEFL (Internet Based) 86 (no component less than 21) / Pearson PTE Academic 58 (no component less than 54); or
- Satisfactory completion of James Cook University Singapore English Language Preparatory Program (ELPP); or
- Successful completion of other qualifications completed in English Language deemed comparable to Australian standards on a case-by-case basis in accordance to JCU admissions guidelines

Graduate Diploma of Research Methods

Study Program

Students are required to complete 24 credit points as follows.

Duration: 1 year full time
2 years part time

Course Structure: 4-6 subjects in 2 terms

Intake: Term 1 (January to June)
Term 2 (July to December)

Total Tuition Fees*: S$30,890.60 (International)
S$29,364.60 (Domestic)**

** Effective for students commencing from Trimester 2, 2026. Tuition fees are subject to change in following years.*
*** Fees apply to all Singapore residents (Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and all pass holders excluding those holding a Student Pass).*

Note:
- All course fees include the corresponding 9% Singapore Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The details of the instalment breakdown will be provided in your Student Contract. Please contact us for further details.

SUBJECTS

CORE:
Research Planning
Research Project

Options

Note: Optional subjects will be determined in consultation with research supervisors and will be put on the student's study plan.

Select 6 credit-points of discipline appropriate postgraduate Research Methods subjects from List 1 or or equivalent subjects in consultation with the research project advisor and College Associate Dean, Research Education or Course Coordinator

Advanced Bioinformatics
Toolkit for the Field Biologist
Scientific Research Methods
Data Mining
Field Studies in Tropical Land and Water Science
Research Design and Proposal
Introduction to Educational Research
Advanced Geographic Information Systems
Remote Sensing
Research Methods for Global Development
Multidisciplinary Research and Communication in CRM
Statistical Methods for Data Scientists
Research Methods and Communication Skills
Quantitative Methods in Science
Design and Analyses in Ecological Studies
Post-Graduate Research Methods for the Social Sciences

+

Select 6 credit-points of discipline appropriate postgraduate coursework or research dissertation subjects in consultation with the research project advisor and College Associate Dean, Research Education or Course Coordinator

**1 subject worth 6 credit points or 2 subjects each worth 3 credit points*

Entry Requirements

Entry Requirements

Completion of at least an AQF level 7 bachelor degree in a relevant discipline, with a minimum grade point average of 5.0 (credit average) in the final year; or other qualifications recognised by the University as equivalent.

Course Articulation

Students seeking admission to a research higher degree should consult the University's Higher Degree by Research Requirements.

(Website: https://www.jcu.edu.au/policy/research-education/higher-degree-by-research-requirements)

Students seeking admission to a Master of Philosophy must have obtained at least a GPA 5.0 (Credit) for the supervised research component of the Graduate Diploma of Research Methods *(Research Planning & Research Project)*.

To be eligible to apply for direct admission to a Doctorate of Philosophy, must have obtained at least a GPA 6.0 (Distinction) for the supervised research component of the Graduate Diploma of Research Methods *(Research Planning & Research Project)*.

Advanced Standing

Application for advanced standing from the core subject will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

English Requirements

- Applicants of non-English speaking backgrounds must meet the English language proficiency requirements of IELTS 6.5 (no component lower than 6.0) / TOEFL (Internet Based) 86 (no component less than 21) / Pearson PTE Academic 58 (no component less than 54); or
- Satisfactory completion of James Cook University Singapore English Language Preparatory Program (ELPP); or
- Successful completion of other qualifications completed in English Language deemed comparable to Australian standards on a case-by-case basis in accordance to JCU admissions guidelines

Doctor of **Philosophy**
Master of **Philosophy**

Pathways to a Higher Degree

Graduate Certificate of **Research Methods**
Graduate Diploma of **Research Methods**

Your Local Representative:

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James Cook University Pte. Ltd. | 149 Sims Drive, S(387380) | UEN and PEI Registration No. 200100786K | PEI Period of Registration: 13 July 2026 to 12 July 2032
James Cook University Australia offers pathway, undergraduate and postgraduate programs at the Singapore campus of James Cook University.
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