2026

Postgraduate Course Guide

Southern Cross University



scu.edu.au

CRICOS Provider: 01241G
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Transform your future

When you join Southern Cross University, you'll be studying in a revolutionary academic model that's unique in Australia.

Six-week terms, immersive learning experiences, real-world scenarios; our students thrive and achieve academically in courses built for their success, both at university and beyond. Our postgraduates have some of the highest graduate employment rates in the country and they earn well above the national median postgraduate salary.*

You'll be connected to an alumni network that spans the globe and join a community of like-minded and passionate people who are building a better future for everyone.

Together, we are Transforming Tomorrow.

*Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023, **qilt.edu.au**

Why Southern Cross University?

5-star student support and full-time employment for postgraduate study

TOP 100 Young Universities (2024)

Top 700 universities globally (2025)

92% full-time employment (postgraduate)*
$110,000 median full-time salary (postgraduate)*

* QILT/Graduate Outcomes Survey 2023



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We acknowledge Widjabal Country as the Country where Southern Cross University originated and grew, and from where it continues to grow. It seeded the growth of our Gumbaynggirr Campus in Coffs Harbour, our Yugambeh Campus in Coolangatta and it planted the seeds to transform the Countries we are on.

Understanding our origins will make each step into the future a more purposeful one, leading all to transform tomorrow.

Our graduates



Studying the past to shape my future

Marian Bailey
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
Archaeologist

A Doctor of Philosophy has enabled Marian Bailey to make new discoveries using fossils from the past. Her palaeontological research brings new life to the story of *Gigantopithecus blacki*, the only ape genus to have gone extinct in the past 2.6 million years.

Marian's thesis applied cutting-edge biogeochemical methods to fossil teeth to reconstruct early-life behaviours and extinction risks.

"What truly distinguished my experience was the rare combination of academic rigour and genuine care for students," Marian said.

Marian is now working with an archaeological consultancy, applying her research skills to heritage projects.

Smells like success

Andrew Nichols
Master of Business Administration
Co-Founder, Mr Hux

Masters of Business Administration (MBA) graduate and commercial manager Andrew Nichols is a born entrepreneur, co-founder of a unique fragrance brand called Mr Hux.

He has successfully combined his corporate experience with a passion for creating accessible, genderless fragrances.

Inspired by his dog Huxley, Andrew and his partner created Mr Hux, the only Australian fragrance brand to cater to the visually impaired community by incorporating braille on their packaging. Committed to sustainability, they ensure all packaging is recyclable or reusable.

Andrew credits his MBA from Southern Cross University for helping him navigate the challenges of starting and growing his own business.





Inspiring positive change

Kristy Bjarnelind
Master of Education
Head of Science, Brighton Grammar School

Inspiring positive change is key for Master of Education alumna Kristy Bjarnelind, Head of Science at Brighton Grammar School in Melbourne.

Kristy enrolled in the Master of Education specialising in Educational Leadership with ambitions to progress her career.

"The course was excellent. It widens your understanding of how a school operates which is important in a leadership position," she said.

Kristy is now ready to take the next step in her career and help shape education in schools.

"I want to impact how teachers are teaching and have a wider impact on education and student learning," she said."It was just phenomenal! If I hadn't done my Masters, I would not have found those global connections to work on such a massive project."

Postgraduate courses

Courses	Location	Duration	Starts	Professional accreditation
Business				
Graduate Certificate in Business Also available in online accelerated mode	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney	0.5FT/1PT	March, July, October	
Graduate Certificate in Management	Online	0.5FT/1PT	March, July	
Graduate Certificate in Project Management	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July August, October	AIPM
Graduate Certificate in Small Business Management	Online	1PT	March	
Graduate Diploma of Business Also available in online accelerated mode	Gold Coast	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	
Graduate Diploma of Project Management	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	AIPM
Master of Business Administration Also available in online accelerated mode	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney	2FT/4PT	March, July, October	
Master of Management	Online	1FT/2PT	March, July	
Master of Project Management	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	AIPM
Computing and Information Technology				
Master of Information Technology	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, online	2FT/4PT	March, July, October	ACS
Education				
Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Education Leadership	Gold Coast, Online	0.5FT/1PT	March, July	
Graduate Certificate in Education	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Educational Inclusion and Diversity	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Educational Wellbeing	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Diploma of Education (Early Childhood)	Gold Coast, online	1FT/2PT	March, July, August, October	ACEQA
Graduate Diploma of Teaching	Gold Coast, online*	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	
Master of Education	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Teaching	Gold Coast, online	2FT/4PT	March, July, August, October	NESA, ACECQA

*Online students may be required to attend on-campus workshops during some of the units.

Courses	Location	Duration	Starts	Professional accreditation
Engineering				
Master of Engineering Management	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Engineering	Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Online	2FT/4PT	March, July	EA
Health				
Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education and Management	Online	8mths PT	March	ADEA
Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Leadership	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Mental Health	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Nursing	Online accelerated	8 mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Certificate in Neurodiversity	Online	1PT	March	
Graduate Diploma of Mental Health	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Nursing	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	ACMHN
Master of Healthcare Leadership	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Mental Health	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Mental Health Nursing	Online accelerated	2PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	ACMHN
Master of Nursing	Gold Coast, Northern Rivers, Coffs Harbour	2FT	January, August	ANMAC
Master of Osteopathic Medicine	Northern Rivers, Gold Coast	1.5FT/3PT	March	AOAC
Graduate Certificate in Advanced Naturopathic Medicine	Online	34wks PT	July	
Master of Advanced Naturopathic Medicine	Online	1.5PT	July	
Graduate Certificate in Lifestyle Medicine	Online	1PT	March	
Master of Lifestyle Medicine	Online	2PT	March	ASLM
Master of Integrative Medicine	Online	2PT	March	
Master of Naturopathic Medicine	Gold Coast, Northern Rivers	2FT/4PT	March, July	AIHM, ANTA, ANPA, ATMS, CMA, ARONAH, NHAA
Master of Professional Psychology	Online	1FT/2PT	March	APAC

Courses	Location	Duration	Starts	Professional accreditation
Hotel Management				
Graduate Certificate of Business in Global Hotel Leadership	The Hotel School Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth	0.5FT/1PT	March, July, October	
Graduate Diploma of Business in Global Hotel Leadership	The Hotel School Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth	1FT/2PT	March, July, October	
Master of Business in Global Hotel Leadership	The Hotel School Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth	2FT/4PT	March, July, October	
Law				
Graduate Certificate in Business Law	Online accelerated	8mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Business Law	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Master of Laws (Business Law)	Online accelerated	16mths PT	January, March, May, July, August, October	
Science and Environment				
Graduate Certificate in Circular Economy	Online	1PT	March	
Social Work and Community Services				
Graduate Certificate in Social Sciences for Social Work	Gold Coast, online	0.5FT/1PT	July, October	
Master of Social Work (Professional Qualifying)	Gold Coast, online*	2FT/4PT	March, October	AASW

* The online study mode includes compulsory on-campus residentials. See webpage for details.

Postgraduate course levels explained

Graduate certificate: Comprises four units and typically takes six months full-time or 1 year part-time.

Graduate diploma: Made up of eight units and is usually completed in one year of full-time study or 2 years part-time.

Masters: Consists of sixteen units and typically takes two years of full-time study or 4 years part-time to complete.



Funding your studies

Most postgraduate degrees are eligible for FEE-HELP. This is a form of government loan that covers the cost of your studies. You pay this loan back through the tax system once your income reaches a certain threshold.

Some postgraduate degrees are also Commonwealth-Supported. This means a portion of your tuition fees is paid by the Commonwealth Government.

Student Services and Amenities Fee

Also known as SSAF, the Student Services and Amenities Fee is used to provide important services and amenities to students both on and off campus. The SSAF is calculated per unit, based on the unit's credit point value. The maximum SSAF fee in 2025 was $365. Eligible students have the option of deferring this fee through the SA-HELP loan scheme.

Other study costs

Your costs could also include computer equipment and software, stationery, field trips, uniforms or other course-specific expenses such as travel for practicums, internships or industry experience.

Books and supplies

Some courses will require you to buy textbooks. The cost of textbooks varies greatly from unit-to-unit. Students can consult booktopia.com.au to find textbooks for a given unit. Second-hand textbooks are sometimes available.

For details visit:

studyassist.gov.au

For details visit:

scu.edu.au/fees

Scholarships

One easy application for a range of scholarships

Scholarships really make a difference. They make your education even more attainable by reducing the financial burden of study – enabling you to focus on your studies and put your learning first.

Scholarships for postgraduate students are available for both coursework programs and research.

More details and how to apply:

scu.edu.au/scholarships



Supporting our healthcare leaders

Nikki Harrison, Master of Healthcare Leadership student and Bonnie Boezeman AO Leadership in Nursing Scholarship recipient.

As an ICU Nurse Manager at Epworth Healthcare in Melbourne, Nikki leads a 26-bed Intensive Care Unit and manages a team of more than 140 staff. “Long term, my vision is to contribute to solving the nursing workforce crisis. I hope to be in a leadership or advisory role focused on attracting people into the nursing profession and, more importantly, ensuring they are supported to stay,” she said.



Supporting your studies

No student is an island. No matter the extra help you need – we've got you covered.

- Careers and employability service
- Equity and inclusion services
- Mentor programs
- Academic skills help
- Counselling services
- Student advocacy
- Indigenous student support
- Wifi and tech services

Careers and employability team

Give your career the head start it deserves and make contact with the Careers and Employability team from the first year of your studies through CareerHub and the online CareerSuccess resources.

The Careers team can help you with:

- Career counselling
- Choosing the right degree
- Finding part-time work on CareerHub
- Assistance with job applications
- Mock interviews
- Networking
- Help with targeting graduate employers.

More details and how to apply at:

scu.edu.au/careers

Email: careers@scu.edu.au



Inclusion Support

If you are a student with disability, we provide a range of support services to assist you to be successful in your studies. These services may include note-taking assistance or digital note-takers, access to alternative format materials, special software or other services as needed.

If you are vision or hearing impaired or have a significant physical disability which requires a high level of support, please contact Inclusion Support as early as possible (at least two weeks before your teaching period begins.).

First Year Advisers

All postgraduate coursework students have access to a First Year Adviser, who can provide tailored advice and support for the first eight units of your degree. Your First Year Adviser understands the unique challenges of balancing postgraduate study and other commitments. They can connect you with the University's support services and help you navigate University systems.

More details and how to apply at:

scu.edu.au/fya



Your experience could count towards a degree

Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is when your studies and/or work experience are recognised and counted towards your degree as credit. Acknowledging your prior learning as credit can:

- Save you time by reducing the number of units you need to complete
- Save you money
- Bring you closer to your career goals sooner!

There are three main types of prior learning that can be considered for credit.

Formal learning: Learning that takes place through a structured program that leads to the full or partial achievement of an officially accredited qualification. For example: a completed diploma from TAFE or a RTO; study undertaken at another university.

Informal learning: Learning gained through work, social, family, hobby or leisure activities and experiences. Unlike formal or non-formal learning, informal learning is not organised or externally structured in terms of objectives, time or learning support.

Non-formal learning: Learning that takes place through a structured program but does not lead to an officially accredited qualification. For example: learning and training activities undertaken in the workplace.

More details and how to apply at:

scu.edu.au/advancedstanding









The Southern Cross Model

A better way to learn at uni

All our courses are taught in the Southern Cross Model, a unique academic calendar of six-week Terms and immersive study experiences. Say goodbye to lectures and hello to assessments that prepare you for the real world. Better grades and more chance of passing with flying colours? Yes, please!

What our students say about the Southern Cross Model

"Six-week terms are just the right length."

"I love the flexible delivery of content. It suits my lifestyle."

"I'm more engaged with the content."

"I get lots of support and the tutors really want you to succeed."

"I feel like I can focus more. I'm getting better grades."

"Focusing on only two subjects full-time has helped me to focus and manage my workload and studies more effectively. In the six-week terms, I'm able to map out my assignments and really tailor my own learning."

Andria Cozza, Occupational Therapy student





Research degrees

Southern Cross University offers Masters by Thesis, Professional Doctorates and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) awards.

All applications for Higher Degrees by Research are made via the Southern Cross University Graduate School.

For more info, and to apply visit

scu.edu.au/graduateschool

Graduate Certificate in Research Management and Communication

Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates have high-level, transferable skills in communication and management. These are attractive to employers across industries and organisations. The Graduate Certificate of Research Management and Communication has been designed to recognise the broad range of higher-level generic skills and graduate attributes that our HDR students acquire during their candidature.

Research Masters and PhD Scholarships

All students choosing to undertake a research program should refer to the Graduate School's Scholarships page or the Southern Cross Plant Science's Scholarship page for full details of available financial support.

In addition to the above scholarship opportunities, Australian Indigenous research students should consider applying through the Indigenous Australian Student Services Scholarship or Indigenous Australian Student Services Book Bursary or Indigenous Australian Student Services Technology Bursary program.

More details and how to apply:

scu.edu.au/scholarships

Indigenous Australian Student Services (IASS)

IASS provides information, advice and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students relating to admission, acceptance of offers, enrolment through self-management, fees, examinations and grades, accommodation, tutorial assistance, Abstudy, access to learning resources, counselling and other support services. We have IASS staff located at each campus – Northern Rivers, Coffs Harbour and the Gold Coast.

More details at:

scu.edu.au/iass

Call: 1800 769 763
Email: iass@scu.edu.au



Unleash your inner entrepreneur

Live Ideas provides students opportunities to realise their entrepreneurial capabilities and work directly with industry to build solutions for the challenges of the future.

Learn more:

scu.edu.au/live-ideas



Southern Cross University Health Clinics

On-campus clinics at the Northern Rivers and Gold Coast campuses provide safe and supervised environments for health students to gain clinical experience. Student clinics run throughout the year.

Learn more:

scu.edu.au/health-clinic

Our campuses

We are a multi-campus university on Australia's east coast at the Gold Coast in Queensland and in the Northern Rivers and Coffs Harbour in New South Wales.

The regions we call home all have unique characteristics as study locations – from cosmopolitan cities, thriving industries and coastal lifestyles to living laboratories of great natural beauty and ecological diversity, right next to the campus.

We have branch campuses in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, and The Hotel School operates in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.



Legend

- **Main campuses**
  Gold Coast, Northern Rivers, Coffs Harbour
- **Metro and The Hotel School campuses**
  Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane

Gold Coast campus

Our Gold Coast campus is located at Coolangatta on Yugambeh Country, just 400 metres from North Kirra Beach, and adjacent to the Gold Coast Airport. Many vantage points offer stunning views of the Pacific Ocean.

The campus is spread across three contemporary buildings that house innovative learning spaces, health science laboratories, computer labs, student lounges, the University's Digital Enterprise Lab and an on-campus Health Clinic.

- Transport hub
- On-campus Health Clinic
- Digital Enterprise Lab
- Beachside campus









Northern Rivers campus

Our foundation campus is located at Lismore in the heart of the Northern Rivers on Bundjalung Country. Set on acres of lush rainforest that includes a koala hospital, the Northern Rivers campus is within easy reach of both national parks and the beautiful beaches of Ballina and Byron Bay.

It is also home to state-of-the-art engineering and environmental science facilities, specialist health labs and simulated hospital wards, a Learning Centre and library complex, heated pool and gym, on-campus accommodation and a Health Clinic.

On-campus Health Clinic

Pool & Gym

On-campus accommodation

Surrounded by nature









Coffs Harbour campus

Our Coffs Harbour campus is located on Gumbaynggirr Country at the heart of an education and innovation hub. Coffs Harbour boasts a relaxed coastal lifestyle but this growing city also hosts international sporting events and regional festivals thanks to outstanding facilities and a major regional airport.

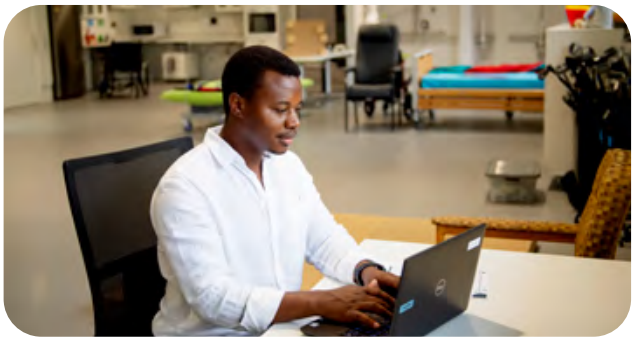
A multi-million-dollar Health Sciences Building on campus features a biomechanics running track and high-tech simulation teaching laboratories. The campus also has a fitness centre, on-campus accommodation, sporting fields and proximity to beautiful beaches and national parks. The University's world-renowned National Marine Science Centre is located in nearby Charlesworth Bay.

- Coastal lifestyle
- International sports
- Health Sciences precinct
- On-campus accommodation







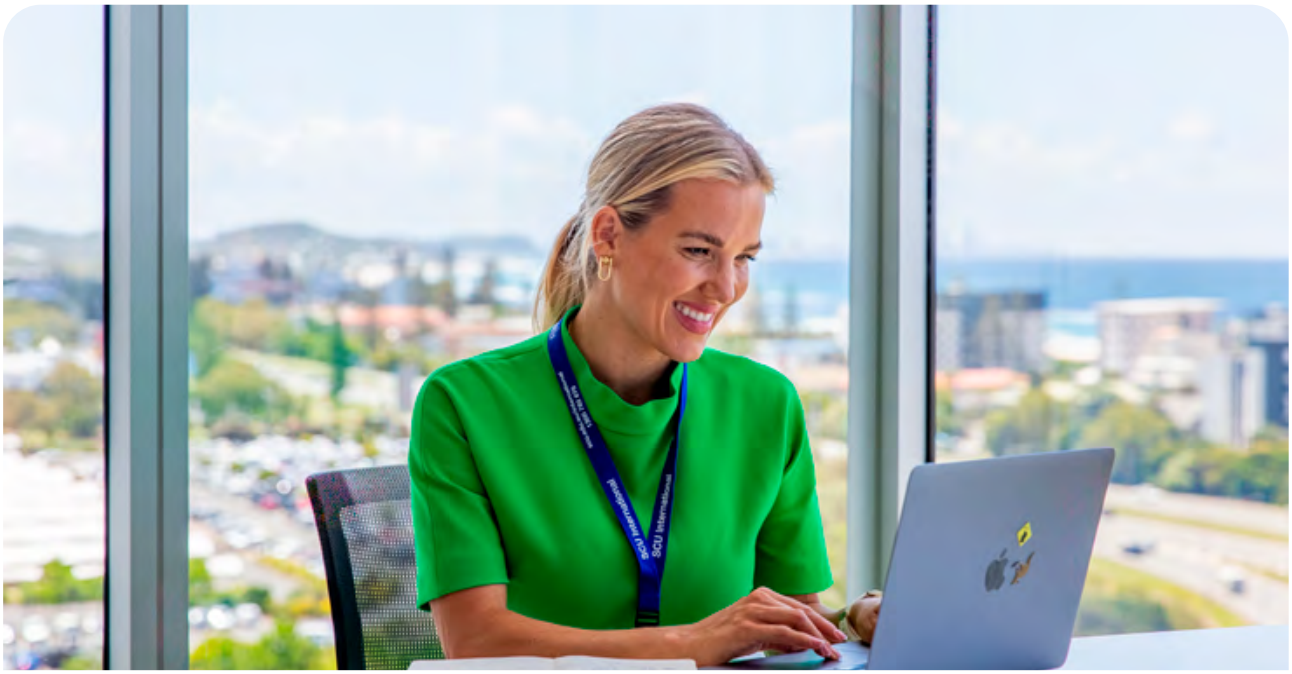


Study online

Geography is no longer a barrier to an excellent university education. Online learning in the Southern Cross Model is a dynamic and interactive environment, where you can access multimedia course content and interact with your peers and tutors, getting feedback as you go.

As an online student you have access to all campus facilities including libraries and study spaces as well as campus activities and clubs. It's a quality Southern Cross University education with the convenience of studying where, and when, it suits you best.

- Learn anywhere, anytime
- Connected student community
- Access campus facilities
- Great learning support





The Hotel School

With campuses in the centres of Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane, the Hotel School is perfectly located not only for study but also for internships in leading leisure and hospitality businesses.

Southern Cross was the first university in Australia to offer a degree in tourism and is consistently ranked among the world's best tourism and hospitality schools. Visit hotelschool.scu.edu.au

Student life

UniLife

Our UniLife program aims to encourage your academic success and support your wellbeing. Students can get involved in social sports clubs and societies, and University-wide events such as the University Student Awards, snow tour, learn-to-surf camps, beach and water safety programs, and other national competitions.

For details visit:

scu.edu.au/unilife











How to apply

Apply for postgraduate coursework degrees directly to the University through the web page of the course you are interested in. All applications for Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) are made via the Southern Cross University Graduate School.

For postgraduate coursework

scu.edu.au/applytostudy

For Higher Degrees by Research (HDR)

scu.edu.au/graduateschool















The skills to lead at a higher level

Lynda Walsh
NSW/ACT State Manager at the Reject Shop, Master of Business Administration graduate

For Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate Lynda Walsh, completing a Masters degree has opened up opportunities to further her career.

Recently appointed as NSW/ACT State Manager at The Reject Shop, Lynda has moved from managing 35 stores as an Area Manager to 107 stores.

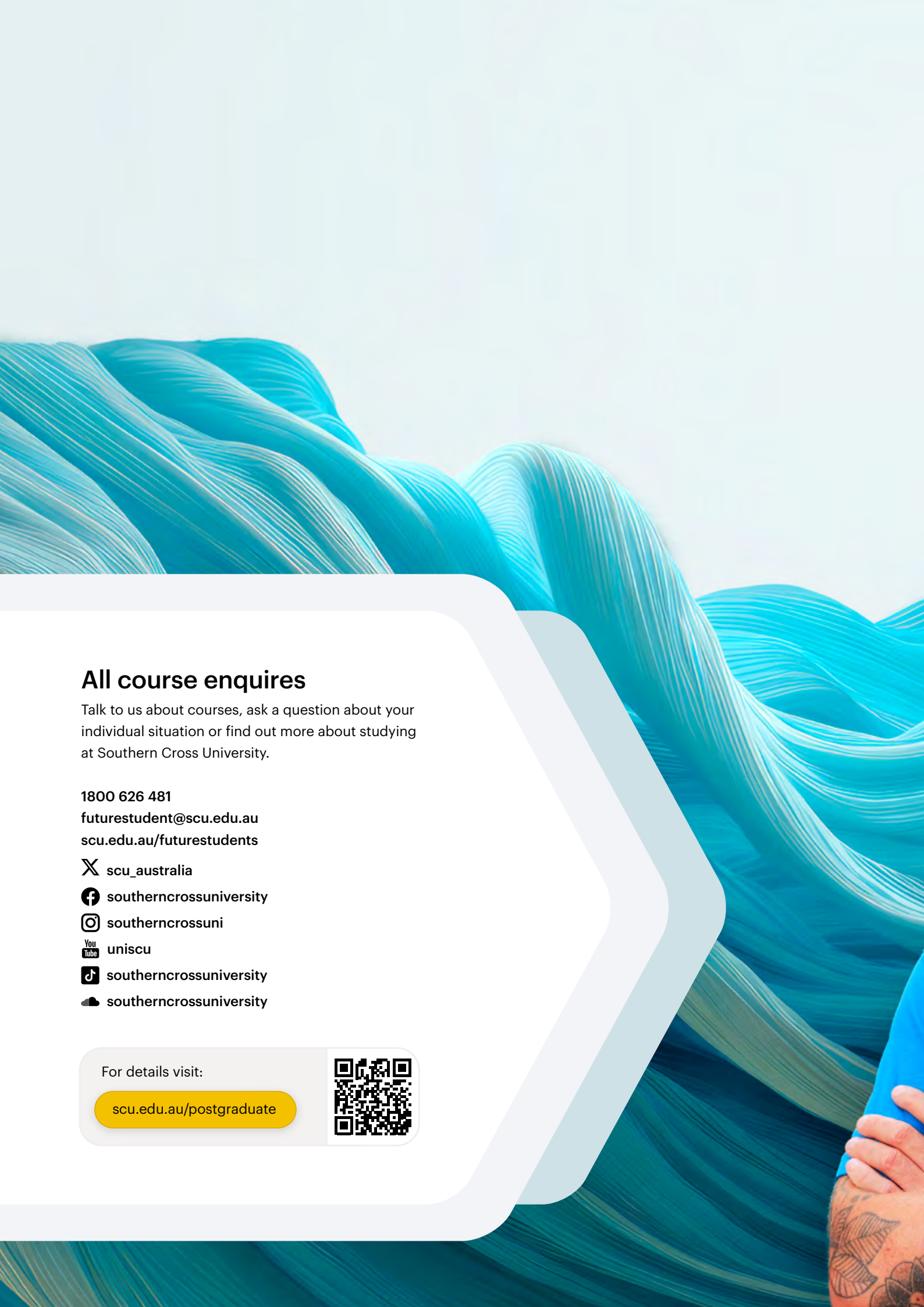
“This degree has equipped me to lead at a higher level, with a focus on inspiring and driving teams towards excellence. It reshaped how I think strategically and how I can have more influence in my future roles,” she said.

Published by Southern Cross University July 2025. The information in this brochure was accurate at the time it was published and is to be used as a guide only. Southern Cross University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of course offerings and other information published in the brochure at any stage. To the extent permitted at law, the University excludes all liability (including all losses, damages, costs and expenses of whatever nature) arising from the use of, or reliance on, any of the information contained in this brochure. Information in this brochure refers to Australian domestic students only. International students should refer to the University website.

Key to professional bodies:

AASW Australian Association of Social Workers
ACECQA Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority
ACS Australian Computer Society
ADEA Australian Diabetes Educators Association
AIHM Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine
AIPM Australian Institute of Project Management
ANPA Australian Naturopathic Practitioners Association
ANTA Australian Natural Therapists Association
AOAC Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council
APAC Australian Psychology Accreditation Council
ATMS Australian Traditional Medicine Society
CMA Complementary Medicines Australia
CPA Australia
CA ANZ Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
EA Engineers Australia
NESA NSW Education Standards Authority
NHAA Naturopaths & Herbalists Association of Australia
NMBA Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Please note some courses may be at a pending stage in their accreditation. Check the web page for up-to-date information.



All course enquires

Talk to us about courses, ask a question about your individual situation or find out more about studying at Southern Cross University.

1800 626 481
futurestudent@scu.edu.au
scu.edu.au/futurestudents

scu_australia
southerncrossuniversity
southerncrossuni
uniscu
southerncrossuniversity
southerncrossuniversity

For details visit:

scu.edu.au/postgraduate