RMIT Research Institutes

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Platform Technologies Research Institute

www.rmit.edu.au
RMIT has recently established four research institutes to provide RMIT’s research foci:

- Global Cities Research Institute
- Design Research Institute
- Sustainable Health & Well Being Research Institute
- Platform Technologies Research Institute
RMIT Research Institutes will:

- Deliver stronger research outcomes/performance,
- Secure sustainable growth in research funding across RMIT,
- Provide areas of research excellence and scale,
- Provide strong incentives for RMIT’s best researchers to grow their performance.

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**RMIT Research Strategy**
- Targets/Outcomes
- Institutes
- Other Uni-wide Initiatives
- Research Investment Fund

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**Research Institute**
- Institute Plan
- Targets/Outcomes
- Budget
- Project Planning

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**Other Initiatives**
- Innovation Professor program
- Small Grants /Seed Grants
- Emerging researcher support
- Seeding of Study Leave program?

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**External Research Funders**
- Strategic agenda
- Priorities/Targets
- Project Funds

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**Research Project**
- Research Plan
- Budget
- Project Deliverables

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**RMIT Schools**
- School Research Plan
- Researchers
- Research Grants/Contracts
- Research Performance

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Things are already happening …

- HDR scholarships under auspices of research institutes
- New staff recruitment aligned to research institutes
- Institute new researchers – research fellows, tenured track fellows and innovation professors
- Enhanced inter- / trans- disciplinary activities (dissolving boundaries)
- Way of thinking is changing around the campus
Global Cities Research Institute

• The RMIT Global Cities Research Institute directly addresses this challenge through engaged research programs with significant on-the-ground impact. We emphasize questions of sustainability, resilience, security and adaptation in the face of processes of globalization and global climate change.

• Institute research programs:
  – Climate Change Adaptation
  – Globalization and Culture
  – Community Sustainability
  – Urban Infrastructure
  – Human Security
  – Learning Cities
  – United Nation Global Compact Cities
The RMIT Design Research Institute engages with new design technologies to enhance community and individual life. Its research focuses on the delivery of space, environments, services and products through design methodologies that elicit and guide our needs and wishes.

Institute research programs:
- Customising Space
- Knowledge-based Design and Rapid Manufacture
- Intervention through Art
- Geoplaced Knowledges
- Urban Liveability
Sustainable Health & Well-Being Research Institute

- The RMIT Sustainable Health & Well-Being Research Institute will address the increasing incidence of chronic diseases in the Australian community through research-based validation of traditional Chinese medicines, the development of innovative therapeutic technologies and the avoidance of lifestyle risk factors.

- Institute research programs:
  - Lifestyle Approaches to Sustainable Health
  - Electromagnetic fields: bioeffects and therapeutic advances
  - Chinese Medicine
  - Evidence-based Health Policy and Practice
Platform Technologies Research Institute

The Aim

Develop integrated smart materials and systems into common technology platforms, applicable for many different uses across a range of needs in global industry sectors.

Our Vision

To be recognised internationally as amongst best research institutes for Platform Technologies.
The Institute Composition

- **Staff:** currently involving 20+ Professors; 40+ A/Profs/Senior Lecturers/Lecturers; 100+ PhD/Masters students
- **Areas:** Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering …
- **Associated Research Centres/Groups:**
  - Microelectronics and Materials Technology Centre
  - Rheology and Materials Processing Centre
  - Sir Lawrence Wackett Centre for Aerospace Design Technology
  - Various Research Groups with RMIT
  - Anybody with an interest in platform technologies is welcome …
Platform Technologies Research Programs

• **Nano Materials and Devices (NMD)** Program Leader: Prof Mike Austin
  – To develop an integrated capability in nanotechnology

• **Sports Engineering and Technology (SportzEdge)** Program Leader: Prof Aleks Subic
  – To establish a technology platform for design and mass customisation of personalised sports products applicable across a wide range of product domains

• **Security and Safety (SaS)** Program Leader: Prof Kathy Horadam
  – To provide world-leading Integrated e-Security Solutions in Security and Safety areas highly important for Australia

• **Intelligent Industrial Information Technologies (I^3T)** Program Leader: Prof Heinz Schmidt
  – To improve systems performance of manufacturing and power engineering processes to meet surging demands for efficiency, quality and safety in an integrated and environmentally sustainable way
Achievements and Highlights

• Advanced Manufacturing CRC (~$10m over 7 years)
• Defence Material Technology Centre (~4m over 7 years)
• Partner in ARC Centre of Excellence for Ultrahigh Bandwidth Devices
• US Ski Team Project - USD$220k for 3 years with Design Institute
• Several international conference keynote invitations
• 36% RMIT ARC applications (36/96) – 27% success rate in 2008 (10/36): 7.5 ARC Discovery grants and 2.5 ARC Linkage grants!
• 13 new research positions have been filled – their contributions are showing!
• New initiatives e.g. Defence/BAE systems, with Business on Logistics, functional garments, international sports companies, Police science and technology initiative …
• Institute launched on 18 Sept and various topical Forums held …
Finally, as an old ‘Chinese’ saying …

• May you live in interesting times
• May you come to the attention of those in authority
• May you find what you are looking for

Thank you!