2012 POSTGRADUATE GEOSPATIAL SCIENCE

» Geospatial information
» Geospatial science

FIND YOUR DIRECTION
Master of Applied Science (Geospatial Information)

RMIT program code
MC058
CRICOS code
023208E
Location
City campus
Mode and duration
1.5 years full-time or
2 years part-time
For Australian residents, the program may also be undertaken on a single course/s basis.
Midyear places may be available.
International students can only study full-time.
Exit points
Graduate Diploma in Geospatial Information
RMIT program code: GD054
CRICOS code: 006608G
1 year full-time or
2 years part-time
Contact
Associate Professor Colin Arrowsmith
School of Mathematical and
Geospatial Sciences
Tel. +61 3 9925 2042
Email: colin.arrowsmith@rmit.edu.au
www.rmit.edu.au/mathsgeo
International/non-Australian residents
Contact: International Services
GPO Box 2476
Melbourne VIC Australia 3001
Tel. +61 3 8676 7047
Domestic free call number: 1800 998 414
Email: isu@rmit.edu.au
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/international

www.rmit.edu.au/mathsgeo

These programs are designed for professionals who want to build their skills in working with geospatial data. They provide a range of specialist elective streams in the areas of environmental studies, geographic information systems, remote sensing, satellite positioning, multimedia cartography and computer science. Background studies in software techniques and applications, computer mapping and land development are also available.

The graduate diploma program is designed for people who want to acquire skills in using and applying geospatial technologies, including the spatial technologies of remote sensing, geographic information systems, and global positioning systems. In addition, the program includes studies in environmental management, natural resource management and geography to support these technological skills.

The Master of Applied Science (Geospatial Information) is designed for individuals who have achieved good results in their undergraduate studies and/or have worked in a related industry for three or more years.

The coursework component is common to the Graduate Diploma in Geospatial Information, but as well as completing additional coursework studies, students are expected to complete a minor dissertation.

Pathway
Holders of the Graduate Diploma in Geospatial Information may be considered for entry with advanced standing into the master program.

Career outlook
The programs are designed for professionally qualified groups such as foresters, agricultural and environmental scientists, surveyors, cartographers, engineers, computer scientists, geologists, geographers and planners engaged at all levels of land data management.

Graduates of the program are qualified as professionals, able to be actively involved in the capture, storage, manipulation and presentation of geospatial information.

Entrance requirements
Entry requires:
» an approved degree or graduate diploma;
» a willingness to assist fellow students in the programs by the active use or sharing of knowledge;
» support of the employer (if appropriate) to attend lectures and/or tutorials and to participate in any other planned activities related to the program; and
» a preparedness to take responsibility for one’s own learning.

Application procedure
RMIT direct application

Fees
Full fee-paying Australian residents
2012: A$15 360 per year full-time
International full fee-paying students
2012: A$24 000 per year full-time

Fees are payable at the commencement of each semester and are calculated annually. Please refer to money matters on the back page for further information.

What you will study
The master consists of 144 credit points. This incorporates the graduate diploma (96 credit points).

The following is an example of courses offered.

Year one
What you will study
GIS fundamentals 12
Research methods 12
Any two approved postgraduate courses 24
Select 48 credit points
» Database concepts 12
» Geography 1a (physical geography) 12
» GIS applications 12
» GIS principles 12
» Multimedia cartography 12
» Multivariate analysis 12
» Remote sensing 12
» Resource management 1 12
» Resource management 2 12
» Satellite positioning 12

Year two
Select 48 credit points
» Dissertation 48
» Dissertation part A (preparation) 24
» Dissertation part B (implementation) 24

“I am now broadening my skills in GPS, geospatial technology and research methodology to complement the GIS, cartography and consultancy skills I developed in the private sector. This has made me very aware of the role postgraduate studies have in global academia, and the immeasurable value they hold within the workplace environment.”

Tony Wilson (cover image)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Geospatial Sciences)
The geospatial science research program comprises a wide range of areas like geodesy, surveying, GPS, remote sensing, GIScience, cartography and geographical visualisation and the application of geospatial science methods and technologies. The program is designed to further develop your analytical and problem solving skills. You will be able to undertake and complete an original research project under the supervision of RMIT’s experts in related fields.

The program will enable you to review literature, develop research questions, critically analyse data, design methodology and techniques and independently carry out research in the career of your choice.

### Career outlook
After successful completion of this program you will be able to undertake an academic career, a research career or career in various industries nationally and internationally.

Geospatial sciences research graduates are highly sought after in various state and central government departments and multinational organisations.

### Professional recognition
On completion, graduates are eligible to become members in the following professional organisations:

- Mapping Sciences Institute Australia
- Surveying and Spatial Science Institute.

### Entrance requirements

#### Master
An applicant for the master degree by research must have:

- qualified for a first degree from RMIT with at least a credit average in the final undergraduate year; or
- qualified for another recognised award deemed to be equivalent in character and standard to a first degree from RMIT with at least a credit average in the final undergraduate year; or
- produced evidence of appropriate experience that satisfies the School that the applicant has developed knowledge of the field of study sufficient to undertake the proposed program.

International onshore applicants will also be required to meet the following English language requirements:

- IELTS—7 bands total and 6.5 bands in each module.

#### PhD
An applicant for the Doctor of Philosophy must have:

- a degree of master by research from RMIT; or
- a degree of master by coursework from RMIT that includes a research program with a duration of at least one semester full-time (or part-time equivalent). The School may consider for direct entry a candidate who has qualified for a master by coursework without having undertaken a research program of at least one semester’s duration provided that the candidate can demonstrate other areas of research experience relevant to the discipline in the form of publications and conference presentations; or
- a degree of bachelor from RMIT with first class honours, or upper second class honours 2; or
- another award deemed to be equivalent in character and standard to the above degrees; or
- such other qualifications or experience as the School considers appropriate.

International onshore applicants will also be required to meet the following English language requirements:

- IELTS—7 bands total and 6.5 bands in each module.

### Application procedure
RMIT direct application

### Fees

**Full fee-paying Australian residents**
2012: A$19,200 per year full-time

**International full fee-paying students**
2012: A$24,000 per year full-time

Fees are payable at the commencement of each semester and are calculated annually. Please refer to money matters on the back page for further information.

### What you will study
All research students are required to complete research methods course GEOM 2132, the mode of delivery for which is face-to-face.
'I have a strong interest in GPS and meteorology, and decided to pursue this interest through a research PhD exploring the field in more depth.

‘RMIT's reputation as a leading research group in this area was what motivated me to study here; it has allowed me to interact with world leading scientists in the field.

‘A highlight of my studies has been receiving recognition for my work as I was presented with student awards at three international conferences in the USA, Austria and China.

‘The PhD program has not only increased my knowledge but also my critical thinking, problem solving and project management skills.

‘I am currently working as a research assistant on a number of projects while I complete my studies. These projects are quite successful in terms of scientific outcome and have added to my project management skills.

‘I have just been offered an ongoing position at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology as a senior environmental IT specialist. I really enjoy contributing to the Bureau by using the knowledge and skills gained from RMIT.

‘In the future I would like to undertake visits to other leading research institutes in the USA or Europe. My long-term goal is to work as a scientist at a research institute or as a professor at a university.’

Frank (Erjiang) Fu
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (Geospatial Sciences)
HOW TO APPLY

Coursework degrees

Direct application
Apply online at www.rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/direct
Timely applications for coursework programs are due by:
  » 10 November each year (Semester 1) and
  » 31 May each year (midyear Semester 2).
Midyear applications open 1 May www.rmit.edu.au/midyear
Applications will continue to be accepted until all places have been filled.
You are encouraged to lodge your application early.

Supplementary information forms
Some postgraduate programs require applicants to complete a
supplementary information form in addition to the direct application form.
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/forms

Research degrees

Entrance requirements
There are minimum entry requirements for master by research and
doctoral degrees. Due to strong competition for places, preference
may be given to applicants with more than the minimum requirements.
All applicants need to find a supervisor with similar research interests
as themselves and discuss a research project proposal with them. The
research proposal must be included in your application.
Refer to contact details under each program or
www.rmit.edu.au/graduateresearch/searchsupervisors

Master
A first degree from RMIT with at least a credit average in the final year;
or a qualification deemed equivalent by RMIT to a first degree from RMIT
with at least a credit average in the final year; or evidence of experience
which satisfies RMIT that the applicant has developed knowledge of the
field of study sufficient to undertake the proposed degree.
Note: Some degrees may require evidence of other qualifications
or experience. Refer to the contact listed under individual degree entries
before applying.

PhD
A degree of master by research from RMIT; or a degree of master by
coursework from RMIT which includes a research component with a
duration of at least one semester full-time (or part-time equivalent); or a
bachelor degree from RMIT with first class honours or upper second class
honours (or another award as deemed equivalent); and such qualifications
or experience as RMIT considers appropriate.
Note: Some programs may require evidence of other qualifications or
experience. Refer to the contact listed under individual program entries
before applying.

Applying
Application for candidature involves three steps. A brief outline is below.
Contact the School of Graduate Research for detailed information.
1. Find a program and confirm eligibility
The entry requirements for each program are listed in this publication.
To discuss your eligibility, contact the RMIT staff member listed under
individual program entries.
2. Seek academic advice
Once you have decided on the higher degree by research (HDR) you are
interested in, you should discuss potential research topics, the availability
of suitable supervisors, and an initial research proposal directly with your
prospective supervisors and/or with the HDR coordinator in the relevant
School.
www.rmit.edu.au/graduateresearch/searchsupervisors

3. Complete and submit the application form and supporting
documents
If you fit one of the following categories of applicants for higher degree by
research places and key scholarship(s), then you can apply through the
School of Graduate Research:
  » Australian Citizens
  » Australian Permanent Residents and New Zealand Citizens
  » Offshore International Students—you will be studying outside of
    Australia and do not fall into any of the above categories.
www.rmit.edu.au/graduateresearch/application

All other applicants are considered Onshore International Applicants
and must apply through RMIT’s International Services division.
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/international

International/non-Australian residents
For the latest application procedures, please refer to our website:
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/international
Money Matters

Coursework degrees
What you pay will depend on whether you are offered a Commonwealth supported place (CSP) or a full-fee place. Financial assistance is available for eligible students regardless of the type of place you enrol in.

Full-fee place
Full-fee students are required to pay the complete cost of their program. The fees vary according to each program and are adjusted on an annual basis. They are listed under each program in this booklet.

FEE-HELP
Australian citizens or holders of a permanent humanitarian visa are eligible to apply for a FEE-HELP loan for full-fee places. FEE-HELP enables eligible students to obtain a loan from the Australian Government to pay all or part of their tuition fees. The Government pays the amount of the loan directly to the student’s institution. Students repay their loan through the taxation system once their income reaches the minimum threshold for compulsory repayment.

Commonwealth supported places (CSP)
A Commonwealth supported place (CSP) is a place at uni where the fee is subsidised by the Australian Government. Your share of the fee is calculated according to the interest area you are studying. The following table shows a student’s annual share of the fee for full-time study in 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your interest area:</th>
<th>Your student contribution for full-time studies commenced in 2012:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics, science, statistics</td>
<td>$4520 p.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities, behavioural science, social studies, education, clinical psychology, foreign languages, visual and performing arts, nursing</td>
<td>$5648 p.a. (Band 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing, built environment, allied health, other health, engineering, surveying, agriculture</td>
<td>$8050 p.a. (Band 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting, administration, economics, commerce, dentistry, medicine, law, veterinary science</td>
<td>$9425 p.a. (Band 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who undertake more or less than a full-time study load, or who study courses from a combination of the above categories, will be charged the proportionate student contribution.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees

Confirmation of fees for 2012 can be obtained from Info Corner on tel. 03 9925 2260.

Postgraduate Coursework Commonwealth Supported Equity Places
RMIT has a limited number of Commonwealth supported places (CSP) in postgraduate coursework programs for applicants who meet entrance and equity criteria. Instead of paying full-fees, the CSP equity place allows eligible students to complete their program with a choice of up-front, partial up-front or deferred payment options. These places are available in any program.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/equity

Research degrees
If you are an Australian citizen, Australian permanent resident or New Zealand citizen you may be eligible for a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) place where your tuition costs are funded by the Australian Government and you therefore have full exemption from tuition fees. RMIT also offers research places on a fee-paying basis. For more information on fee-paying places please contact the relevant RMIT school to which you are applying. Program fees may vary according to the courses chosen and fees are invoiced on a semester basis.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees

Acceptance in a HDR place is very competitive and places are granted on the condition that you meet annual progress requirements and complete within the allotted time for your program and your status as a part-time or full-time candidate.

www.rmit.edu.au/graduateresearch

Material fees
In addition to tuition fees, you may be required to purchase items related to your program, including field trips and excursions, specified textbooks and equipment. These fees are not compulsory and students may choose to purchase these items independently. These expenses vary from program to program. Please check individual program brochures or contact the relevant school directly.

Annual increase of full-fees
RMIT reserves the right to adjust fees on an annual basis by an amount that will not exceed 7.5% each year (subject to rounding). For higher education fees, tuition fees are rounded up to the nearest $10 per credit point increment, and so the actual fee increase may exceed 7.5%.

Financial assistance
Scholarships
Various scholarship opportunities exist for eligible master and PhD students. For scholarship details and eligibility criteria, visit www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships.

Income tax deductions
Australian students may be eligible to apply for income tax deductions relating to the education expenses that are linked to their employment. Students should check with an accredited taxation accountant/consultant as to their eligibility for possible deductions. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website may also be useful. For further information, visit www.ato.gov.au

International/non-Australian residents only
For the latest fee information, please refer to our website: www.international.rmit.edu.au/info/programfees.asp

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate and current at the date of printing. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the RMIT University website before lodging your application. Prepared in September 2011. CRICOS provider number 00122A.