The School of Arts and Social Sciences is a multidisciplinary and creative learning community.

In the Excellence in Research for Australia 2012 national report, Southern Cross University was rated at ‘world standard’ in the broader research field of studies in creative arts and writing.

Lismore campus is home to the School’s creative and performing arts degrees, providing a rich cultural hub in a region renowned for its dynamic arts and music scene. The School has an expanding presence at the Gold Coast campus. Selected courses are also provided by distance education where students are welcomed as part of our interactive, online learning community.

Studying at SCU

Studying at Southern Cross University involves a range of learning experiences. It can vary based on your course of study, your location and your mode of study. You may take part in face-to-face lectures, workshops and tutorials, interactive video-conferenced lectures, podcasts, online units and discussion forums using cutting-edge technologies. You can bring your own device onto campus and use SCU’s extensive wireless network or access study materials off-campus as long as you have an internet connection. Many courses also offer professional placements, field trips and residential workshops.

Why study with us?

- Located in a dynamic region with a rich, creative culture.
- Follow your passions while gaining skills and abilities for a future career.
- Community engaged and experiential learning opportunities.
- Strong connections to local community organisations.
- Interactive, online learning community.
- On-campus and distance education study options.
- Three teaching sessions to fast-track your degree or spread your study load.

Degrees which put you in the workplace

Supervised professional placements are available and enable students to engage within their respective industries, put theory and knowledge of their chosen discipline into practice, and establish contacts and networks to prepare for entry to the workforce.

Opportunities exist for students in the Bachelor of Arts to undertake professional placements with community organisations, in museums or heritage associations, or in creative industries. Social science students can gain experience in government departments and non-government community organisations, while social welfare students undertake placements in a range of settings to meet professional accreditation requirements. Creative writing students can undertake writing tasks and other activities including at the Byron Bay Writers’ Festival.
BACHELOR OF ARTS

The Bachelor of Arts enables students to pursue areas about which they are passionate while gaining relevant, transferrable and valuable career skills for life. The course promotes critical thinking, community engagement and creative practices and provides the scope to build strong intellectual capabilities and a broad knowledge of the liberal arts as well as a deepened understanding through the study of majors.

Students focus on their areas of interest through the selection of eight-unit majors in the disciplines of Art and Design, Communication and Cultural Studies, Contemporary Music, Governance and Society, History, Media Studies, Psychology, and Writing, with the freedom to combine these majors with others offered by the University. Majors are available on campus and/or by distance education or a combination of both.

Specialist streams (made up of a minimum of four units) are also available for students to pursue languages (currently Mandarin) and community engaged learning. Students can also elect to undertake a professional placement to gain experience in the workplace and to establish professional contacts.

In addition to the command of their chosen disciplines, graduates develop cultural awareness, intellectual rigour, critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills. This benefits their future workplaces, whether they choose to work in service to the public, in business organisations, in education, as a writer or cultural producer, or to build their career in another field.

Students of the Bachelor of Arts may also exit the program early with an Associate Degree in Creative Writing, following successful completion of 16 required units. (See page 6.)

Professional placement

Professional placement provides students with the opportunity to gain experience in the workplace and to establish contacts. Students can undertake learning opportunities in the community through a number of units as well as through assessment opportunities. A particular stream in community engaged learning enables students to work with a community partner on a project of mutual benefit. Students in the writing major may seek placement in the writing, publishing and media industries, while students undertaking history may seek placement in heritage and historical museums or associations. Students in the communication and cultural studies major may seek professional placement with a community organisation working in an area of their interest. The unit Community History Project enables students to do a collaborative project with community partners. All students can undertake units that provide community-engaged learning opportunities, working with partners outside the University to produce public outcomes.

Majors

Majors and campus availabilities include:
[Lismore - L; Gold Coast - GC; Distance Education - DE.]

Art and Design includes units that focus on art and design for publication, graphic design, digital art and photography (L).

Communication and Cultural Studies enables students to connect their everyday life, personal, community and vocational interests to the broader issues and challenges of the 21st century. It equips students with a combination of critical and creative thinking skills and abilities. Cultural studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture, communication and society through textual analysis, cultural theory, media analysis and understanding how meaning is made through power, identity and place. Cultural studies empower diversity, social inclusion and ethical and innovative scholarship that guides and informs how we live, work and learn (GC, L, DE).

Contemporary Music students learn about contemporary music theory and styles, music technology and the internet, songwriting, sound theory and recording technique, and global perspectives in music (L).

Governance and Society brings together two key strands in the arts and humanities. The approach is multidisciplinary – drawing on politics and sociology to consider contemporary issues in society and provide insights into events that influence the world in which we live. Staff have expertise in each of the discipline areas and share a commitment to interpreting past and contemporary society by using a range of theoretical and methodological approaches (L, DE).

History is a dialogue between the past and present. Historians explore the diversity of human experience to draw out patterns and ideas that help us understand the world today. This major focuses on the knowledge and critical skills of the discipline that can be applied to the study of the past in all its dimensions, including important professional skills such as communication, analysis, critical thinking, and interpretation. Students have the opportunity to undertake independent research projects relevant to their own interests (L, DE).

Media Studies enables students to learn to think critically and creatively about themselves, their workplace and their community in a national and global context. With a strong emphasis on digital media production and analysis for screen, print and online environments, Media Studies equips students with a range of practical skills appropriate to an increasingly technological world (L, DE).
Psychology includes a strong emphasis on demonstrating the links between theory, research and application. A problem-solving approach to teaching involves students generating solutions to real-world problems using their psychological knowledge. The major includes studies in fundamental areas of psychology including biological bases of behaviour, perception, learning, memory and cognition, and lifespan developmental psychology (DE).

Writing enables students to pursue their passion for writing in a supportive, inter-disciplinary environment which promotes the type of creative learning needed by cutting-edge writers. Students acquire skills in writing genres including novels, short stories, writing for performance, feature and investigative journalism and essay writing as well as editing and publishing (L, DE).

Please note that some majors and units may not be available at each location. Unit availabilities are published for each study period and vary from year to year.

Your Career

Graduates are equipped with transferable skills that are relevant and valuable to many careers. They may find employment, for example, in communication industries, community relations, journalism, cultural policy, management and administration, education, publishing, public service, multimedia design, creative and cultural industries, politics, social justice and human rights.

Summary

Locations: Gold Coast, Lismore, Distance Education
Duration: 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time
UAC codes: GC – 333161, L – 333100
QTAC codes: GC – 053161, L – 053001
Total units: 24 | Indicative ATAR: 68 | Indicative OP: 13

ASSOCIATE DEGREE OF ARTS

Offered through SCU College

The Associate Degree of Arts is a two-year (full-time or part-time equivalent) entry-level course that prepares students for continuing study and/or participation in a range of areas relevant to the humanities, culture, society and creative arts. The course equips students with skills and knowledge that enable eligible graduates to progress to a Southern Cross University Bachelor of Arts degree. Graduates of the Associate degree are suited to employment at the para-professional level in a range of areas relevant to the humanities and social science, while those who attain the Bachelor of Arts will have expanded career opportunities based on majors completed in the degree.

For more information visit scu.edu.au/scucollege
Jacki (Jax) Brown
Disability activist and writer
Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Communication and Cultural Studies

As a queer person with cerebral palsy (CP), Jacki Brown grew up very aware she was in the minority and this sparked a passion for social justice issues which she was able to explore when studying cultural studies as part of SCU’s Bachelor of Arts, achieving a final GPA of 6.67.

“I don’t feel like I’m isolated anymore, even with the big challenges in my life. For me, undertaking this degree really has been transformative. I devoted most of my cultural studies experience to exploring disability and queer sexuality. It really worked for me and gave me agency in the world,” Jacki said.

Living in Melbourne, Jacki writes, conducts workshops on disability and queer sexuality and performs regularly as ‘Jax’ at spoken word events. She also meets with parents of children with CP, encouraging them to teach their children self-acceptance.

She credits her cultural studies lecturer, Professor Baden Offord, with giving her the confidence to pursue academia further. She will be undertaking Honours in 2014.

“He ignited my passions. He treats every student as if they’ve got something worthy to say regardless of what their personal life experience is and to think deeply about issues and get out there and engage with the world.”
ASSOCIATE DEGREE OF CREATIVE WRITING

Immerse yourself in the world of words and become a confident and skilled creative writer. The Associate Degree of Creative Writing provides students with a broad range of skills spanning several writing genres. It enables students to focus on the practice and theory of writing, along with developing the attributes and skills needed for a professional career in writing. The course offers a rich mix of creative writing and literary studies across a range of writing modes in fiction and non-fiction, including experimental writing, journalism, life writing, poetry, writing for stage and screen, and writing for young adults.

If you have a way with words, a passion for writing, or a story to tell, this degree will help build your confidence and provide professional feedback to assist in becoming published.

After completion of the Associate degree, students may choose to apply to study a further eight units to gain a Bachelor of Arts degree. See page 32.

The University is the education partner of the Byron Bay Writers’ Festival, the Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA), Northern Rivers Writers’ Centre and supports the Bellingen Writers’ Festival.

Professional recognition
Graduates will be eligible for membership of the Australian Society of Authors, Australian Writers’ Guild, Australasian Association of Writing Programs, and Copyright Agency Limited.

Professional experience
Opportunities exist for writing students to undertake internships or work placements with Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA), the Byron Bay Writers’ Festival, and the Bellingen Writers’ Festival.

Major areas of study
While this course has no majors, studies in fiction and non-fiction writing include:
- experimental writing
- journalism
- life writing
- poetry
- writing for stage and screen
- writing for young adults

Your career
Career paths include as a writer of novels and scripts; food, nature, art and travel writer; feature journalist; critic and reviewer; essayist; poet; editor and publisher; or writer for marketing and public relations, the public service and arts-related industries.

Your career
Depending on their choice of specialisation, the Bachelor of Contemporary Studies equips graduates for a range of career pathways. The degree can prepare students for professional participation in a range of public and private sectors including in business, tourism, allied health, science, and humanities.

Summary
Locations: Lismore, Distance Education
Duration: 2 years full-time or 4 years part-time
UAC code: 333301
QTAC code: 053301
Total units: 16 | Indicative ATAR: 63 | Indicative OP: 16

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Duration: 2 years full-time or 4 years part-time
UAC code: 333301
QTAC code: 053301
Total units: 16 | Indicative ATAR: 63 | Indicative OP: 16
Katherine Howell
Katherine Howell
Crime fiction writer
Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Writing

Crime fiction writer Katherine Howell is the only author to have won two Davitt awards for best crime novel by an Australian woman. She was also shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Awards 2013, one of Australia’s most prestigious crime writing literary awards.

“I always wanted to be writer, even as a kid, but I wasn’t sure about how I was going to get there. Studying writing was the starting point. Before that I was floundering around on my own,” Katherine said.

Being around other writers and being taught by writers gave Katherine the confidence she needed to persist and get published.

“The lecturers were all published, so they were just inspiring to be around. I found a creative home and started to believe it could be possible.

“Having deadlines that actually made me write something and finish it and get feedback was so valuable. Feedback helps you see the flaws, and helps you improve. When I write a novel I get a 10-page report about all the things that don’t work. Studying writing helped me learn to separate myself from my work and make the work better.”
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Bachelor of Social Science provides students with an understanding of society and its institutions, and the way in which they impact on people and their lives. Underpinned by the values of social justice, human rights, environmental sustainability, and cross-cultural awareness, the degree facilitates capabilities that enable students to critically analyse social arrangements and identify opportunities for change. It also enables students to gain skills in working effectively with people in many different organisational settings.

The course includes majors in Sociology, and Politics and Government (new name subject to University approval). It provides options for further specialisation through the selection of up to two streams (of four units each) in development studies, cultural studies and welfare studies. A selection of majors from across the University is also available in this course.

The degree builds transferable knowledge and skills that can be applied in many different settings, such as the public service, community agencies, advocacy and lobbying organisations, and international aid organisations.

Professional placement

Students can undertake an optional professional placement unit towards the end of the degree, to gain on-the-job experience in their chosen field and advance their career goals. Placements can be undertaken in many types of establishments or organisations such as government departments and non-government community organisations. Typical activities during placement can include policy development, specific projects, community engagement, or grant applications.

Majors

Sociology examines the many forces that affect how people experience society and provides an understanding of how particular groups within society may be disadvantaged. It examines the operation of key social institutions, such as the family, religion and the economy. Students develop skills in critical analysis and social research and apply these to contemporary issues and debates. The major includes an analysis of the changing conditions of work and personal relationships, as well as the impact of social forces on health and wellbeing. It also addresses changing patterns of social communication, including the use of social networking. Students have the opportunity of undertaking independent studies in sociology, as well as participating in work-integrated learning and a community partnership project.

Politics and Government (new name subject to University approval) offers a range of units in Australian and international politics and policy. Students are introduced to ideas of power, resistance and social justice by studying institutions of government as well as non-government organisations and political forces that challenge the formal structures of power. The major enables students to develop high level skills in critical analysis by exploring the role of ideology, ideals and political culture, and how these shape outcomes that impact at the family, community, national and global levels. It includes an examination of policy-making processes and offers skills in social research methods. Students also have an opportunity to apply their learning at a practical level as well as pursuing their particular interests through independent study.

Streams: These include development studies, which addresses local and global community development strategies and issues; cultural studies, which engages with various understandings of identity, power and place; and welfare studies, which enables students to understand the processes involved in the planning and delivery of community services. Students have the option of selecting up to two streams (made up of a minimum of four units).

Please note that some units in this course are only available to study by distance education.

Your career

This is a flexible, versatile and practical degree that can be used to effectively position graduates for many different jobs. There are diverse private and state government agencies that employ social science graduates, drawing on their skills in problem-solving, critical analysis, social research and advocacy. These include departments of family and community services, and child safety and disability services. The federal government also employs social science graduates. Examples include the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australian Department of Human Services. The degree also qualifies students to study for higher degrees that can lead to careers in fields as diverse as international relations and social work.

Summary

Locations: Gold Coast, Lismore, Distance Education

Duration: 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time

UAC codes: GC – 331161, L – 331101

QTAC codes: GC – 051161, L – 051011

Total units: 24 | Indicative ATAR: 68 | Indicative OP: 13
Ruth Toomey
Manager of Homelessness, Planning and Coordination
Queensland Council of Social Service
Bachelor of Social Science

Ruth Toomey studied a Bachelor of Social Science so she could pursue a ‘meaningful’ career. As manager of homelessness planning and coordination at Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS), she now oversees major community initiatives designed to enhance responses to homelessness and improve housing outcomes across the state.

“I’ve always been a bit of an activist, a fairly political person. I travelled a lot in my 20s and wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do. I worked in travel for a while, but I wanted to do something more meaningful. When I came across the social science degree, and realised you could have a career in social justice, I went for it.

“Having the opportunity to be self-directed with my learning was really good for getting a move-on with my career. Student support services were critical to my success at university, but it’s the way that support was provided that was important, it wasn’t hand holding. We were encouraged to figure out our own answers to the challenges we were coming up against as much as possible.”

At QCOSS, Ruth oversees many partnership projects.

“We have seven homelessness community action plans in partnership with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. We bring together the housing and homelessness sectors, along with support from the broader community, particularly business and philanthropists, to work together around issues of homelessness.”
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The Bachelor of Social Welfare provides the theoretical and practical foundation for work in the human services industry. During their studies students will gain skills in case management, community development, counselling, social research, policy work, advocacy, and grief and loss counselling. Particular emphasis is placed on social justice and human rights as the basis for social welfare practice. The course articulates with a range of VET awards. It can also provide a pathway to the University’s Master of Social Work (Professional Qualifying).

Professional recognition

The course is accredited by the Australian Community Workers Association (ACWA). Graduates are eligible to join ACWA.

Professional placement

In line with ACWA requirements, students undertake 400 hours of supervised on-the-job training. This is completed in two separate organisations in different fields of practice so that students gain a diversity of experience.

Placements may include working across a variety of client groups, such as older people, or young people and families at the individual, group, organisational or community level of practice. The social welfare settings such as child protection, drugs and alcohol, criminal justice, community education, housing, emergency relief, family interventions and domestic violence.

Majors

Ageing enables social welfare students to gain knowledge and skills for effective practice with older people in a range of organisational settings. An emphasis is placed on opportunities for practitioners to facilitate healthy ageing and to support older people’s independence living in the community. Topics include advocacy, social planning, healthy ageing, aged care services, volunteering, and legal issues impacting on older people.

Children and Young People provides students with a comprehensive introduction to social welfare practice with children and young people in a range of organisational settings including government and non-government agencies. The latest research is explored to understand the ways in which children and young people are conceptualised and identified as a target population for human service practice. Topics include advocacy, social planning, youth work, engaging with children, children’s rights, and supporting young people’s emotional and social wellbeing.

Health and Disability examines health and wellbeing as they impact on people and their life opportunities, as well as issues for social welfare workers negotiating the health and disability care systems. Topics include advocacy, social planning, the sociology of health and illness, working with people with disabilities living in the community, complementary medicine, and the mental health of Australian Indigenous people.

Indigenous Studies assists students to gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous world views and history, as well as identifying culturally appropriate ways of working with Indigenous communities. Students gain an appreciation of the origins and effects of trauma across generations and within particular communities. Studies include advocacy, social planning, and healing responses to trauma as experienced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Please note that some units in this course are only available to study by distance education.

Your career

Graduates typically find employment as welfare and community workers in various roles within the community services sector. These include government and non-government positions in fields such as child protection, disability services, housing services, youth work, aged care, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, community engagement, mental health services, and domestic violence services.

Summary

Locations: Gold Coast, Distance Education
Duration: 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time
UAC code: 331162
QTAC code: 051361
Total units: 24  |  Indicative ATAR: 68  |  Indicative OP: 13

*Distance education students are required to attend one five-day residential school to be held at the Gold Coast campus.
## DOUBLE DEGREES

### Double degrees with Law

Double degrees give students the opportunity to study two disciplines concurrently. Students who undertake a double degree with law are candidates for both degrees. The Bachelor of Laws fulfills the academic requirements for admission to the legal profession. Professional admission authorities also require law graduates of all universities to complete practical legal training or similar to be eligible for admission.

Applicants who do not have the required entry mark for a double degree in law are encouraged to apply for the single, partner degree. If those students achieve the required grade point average during that course, they may then apply for transfer into the double degree.

### Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws

**Your career**

Graduates can pursue career opportunities that combine their knowledge of both disciplines to work in law-related areas of the arts. They can also pursue career paths specific to either discipline: that is, as barristers or solicitors in private, corporate or government legal departments; or depending on the arts major chosen, in communication industries, community relations, journalism, cultural policy, management and administration, education, government, publishing, public service, multimedia design, creative and cultural industries, politics, social justice and human rights.

### Summary

- **Locations:** Lismore, Distance Education*
- **Duration:** 5 years full-time or 10 years part-time
- **UAC code:** 336104
- **QTAC code:** 056041
- **Total units:** 40 | **Indicative ATAR:** 89 | **Indicative OP:** 7

*Students studying a double degree with law by distance education must complete some compulsory on-campus workshops. For more details go to: scu.edu.au/lawworkshops

### Double degree with Business

**Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Arts**

The Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Arts double degree gives students the opportunity to gain an understanding of business as it applies to the arts. Students can study a business and an arts major of their choice. Those who study this double degree are candidates for both degrees and are able to complete the two degrees with four-and-a-half years of full-time study (or part-time equivalent).

**Your career**

Graduates can pursue a range of career opportunities that combine their knowledge of business and the arts. They can also pursue career paths specific to each discipline. Business graduates typically work in the areas of accounting, advertising, banking, finance, human resource management, international business, marketing, and public relations. Arts graduates may find employment in communication industries, community relations, journalism, cultural policy, management and administration, education, government, publishing, public service, multimedia design, creative and cultural industries, politics, social justice and human rights.

### Summary

- **Locations:** Lismore, Distance Education
- **Duration:** 4.5 years full-time or 9 years part-time
- **UAC code:** 332105
- **QTAC code:** 052051
- **Total units:** 36 | **Indicative ATAR:** 65 | **Indicative OP:** 14

*Students studying a double degree with law by distance education must complete some compulsory on-campus workshops. For more details go to: scu.edu.au/lawworkshops
Applying to study on campus

For full details go to: scu.edu.au/howtoapply
If you are planning to study on campus, either as a full-time or part-time student, you will need to apply online through either the Universities Admission Centre (UAC) or Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) – either can process your application.

Contact details for UAC:
W: www.uac.edu.au
T: 02 9752 0200

Contact details for QTAC:
W: www.qtac.edu.au
T: 07 3858 1222

Tip: When applying through UAC or QTAC, first list the courses that interest you, in your preferred order. Then list your second choice – courses you’d be prepared to study if you missed out on your first choice, and which might assist you to get into one of your first choice courses later on.

Applications to begin Session 1 studies via UAC or QTAC generally need to be lodged by the last working day in September of the previous year, as applications after that date will incur a late fee.

For information on all our courses visit scu.edu.au/courses

Applying to study by distance education

If you are planning to study by distance education, you can apply online direct to Southern Cross University.

scu.edu.au/howtoapply
E: futurestudent@scu.edu.au
Freecall: 1800 626 481

International students

Southern Cross University welcomes international students. This guide however is not intended for their use. International students should contact SCU International.

W: scu.edu.au/international
E: intoff@scu.edu.au
T: 02 6620 3876

2015 important dates*

Southern Cross University has a teaching calendar of three equal sessions. Depending on the course of study, this can enable students to spread their study load, or to accelerate and complete their degree in less time than the usual duration indicated. For the most up-to-date information, visit the SCU teaching calendar page at: scu.edu.au/teachingcalendar

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<th>Session 1 teaching dates</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>11 – 13 February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAC and QTAC on time applications for 2015 entry (Session 1)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uac.edu.au">www.uac.edu.au</a> <a href="http://www.qtac.edu.au">www.qtac.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Open early August 2014</td>
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<td>Open early August 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Close late May 2015</td>
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<th>Session 3 teaching dates</th>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>19 October 2015 – 30 January 2016</th>
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<td>Orientation</td>
<td>14 – 16 October 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAC and QTAC applications for 2015 entry (Session 3)</td>
<td>Open early August 2015</td>
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<td>Close mid-September 2015</td>
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For the most up-to-date application information, including applying direct to the University, visit:
scu.edu.au/howtoapply www.uac.edu.au or www.qtac.edu.au

*QTAC, UAC, teaching, orientation and scholarship application dates are subject to change. Please refer to their websites. Late QTAC and UAC applications may cost more.