

Centre Participation Guidelines 2025

Centre Vision

Interdisciplinary research to create a more sustainable and resilient future for people and the environment

Centre Mission

The Centre for Environment and Society harnesses QUT's research strengths in climate adaptation and mitigation, ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, resilient communities and infrastructure, and sustainable consumption and production to tackle the planet's most pressing environmental challenges. Our unique interdisciplinary approach couples technological and scientific innovation with social and economic insights to catalyse opportunities for environmental and societal change. The Centre's significant impact is realised through close partnerships with organisations and communities striving for solutions; solutions to reduce and cope with climate change, respond to natural disasters, protect and restore natural systems, and produce and consume sustainably.

Themes and Focus Areas

The Centre has four overlapping Themes with potential Focus Areas embedded within each Theme representing priority challenges the Centre aims to tackle. The Focus Areas are not designed to be exhaustive but act as a starting point for refining the Centre's priorities. The Themes and potential Focus Areas are as follows:

Climate Adaptation & Mitigation

The Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Theme aims to transform the capacity of the natural environment and human systems to respond and adapt to anthropogenic climate change. The Theme researchers develop a mix of technological and nature-based solutions which protect, manage and restore ecosystems. Researcher expertise spans ecological risk assessment and mitigation, monitoring of atmospheric, coastal, freshwater and marine environments, and climate intervention techniques such as solar radiation management and coral rubble stabilisation. It is the real-world strategies developed through interdisciplinary research, strong community and industry engagement that create new approaches to promoting sustainability and strengthening the resilience of our natural systems. We partner with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, non-government organisations and First Nation communities to develop co-designed research that will address the critical environmental challenges we are facing.

Ecosystems & Biodiversity Conservation

The Ecosystems & Biodiversity Conservation Theme conducts interdisciplinary research that develops knowledge and tools to solve the global challenge of biodiversity loss. We deliver practical, science-based solutions that both conserve and recover ecosystems and enhance nature's benefits to people across urban, production and natural landscapes. We partner with diverse stakeholders: government agencies – designing policy and planning strategies to manage biodiversity on public and private land; industry partners – integrating nature-based solutions into agriculture and urban development; and, conservation organisations – tracking the cost-effectiveness of biodiversity interventions.

The Theme's goal is to guide partners to achieve nature-positive outcomes, foster resilient environments and help meet national and global biodiversity conservation goals. In terrestrial ecosystems, our researchers pioneer advanced monitoring and modelling technologies that detect changes in biodiversity and build a fundamental understanding of ecological processes. In marine ecosystems like Antarctic waters and the Great Barrier Reef, our researchers develop predictive models to inform policy and planning, and test innovative restoration methods to build biodiversity resilience. In freshwater ecosystems, researchers evaluate pollution and natural hazard impacts to restore environmental health.

Resilient Communities & Infrastructure

The Resilient Communities & Infrastructure Theme aims to deliver resilient communities and infrastructure by designing for uncertainty, responsiveness to hazards, and recovery over short and longer-term horizons. Researchers solve problems at the intersection of people, places, and built environments, delivering evidence-based and real-world ready solutions such as public information, warnings and platforms, and fire-resistant building materials.

This Theme engages with individuals, communities, organisations, and governments with wicked and complex problems, and ideas to test. The research uses advanced technology, community-led approaches, and socio-ecological thinking for resilience. The Theme aspires to reinterpret resiliency problems and opportunities to drive innovative and engaged research.

Sustainable Production & Consumption

The Sustainable Consumption & Production Theme uses an interdisciplinary approach to confront the ecological, economic and social crises produced by unsustainable materials and practices. The Theme researchers partner with communities, social activist organisations, industry, governments, social enterprises, and practitioners to reimagine materials, scale practical and equitable strategies and solutions that are local and circular.

We use design and system thinking, mapping relationships between materials, factories, consumers and the environment to create a holistic view of complex contexts. These designs serve to accelerate the transition to an equitable future for people, place and the planet. The Theme researchers aim to drive the implementation of sustainable production and consumption within planetary boundaries, sustaining sufficiency and wellbeing.

Capabilities and Disciplinary Expertise

As a strongly interdisciplinary Centre, we aim to have diverse capabilities and disciplinary expertise within and across the Themes, including, but not limited to, the following disciplinary areas:

- AI & information technology
- Architecture, design & planning
- Climate science
- Communication
- Data science & math
- Earth systems science
- Ecology, conservation & genetics
- Materials science
- Health sciences
- Indigenous knowledges and culture
- Circular economy
- Policy & law
- Resilience, risk, and crisis management
- Social science & economics

To encourage multidisciplinary research and collaboration:

Researchers are encouraged to join Centre Themes aligned with their interests. Each researcher must nominate one primary Theme but may work across multiple Themes. In fact, we expect and encourage researchers to work across Themes to improve interdisciplinarity.

Centre Investigators may also be affiliated with one additional research Centre (up to two in total). As per section 2.3 of the QUT Research Structures Criteria and Operating Protocol, Chief Investigators must commit 0.2 FTE of their research time to the Centre. This can be interpreted as a requirement to spend 20% of your time on research activities aligned with the Centre.

Participation Structure

The Centre has the following participation categories:

- Chief Investigators
- Affiliate Investigators
- Research Fellows
- Higher Degree Research Students
- External Collaborators

Chief Investigators

To be a Chief Investigator, you must be a QUT academic staff member:

- On a substantive continuing or fixed-term appointment with a minimum 20% research load
- Or an Early/Mid-Career Researcher who is an independent researcher on their own Fellowship or Faculty-funded appointment
- Undertake research which is closely aligned to the research priorities of the Centre

The University criteria for Centre Chief Investigators are defined below.

The applicant needs to meet a minimum of three of the following criteria:

- Actively contribute to the research themes/platforms and operations of the Centre.
- Attract and secure external funding that aligns directly with the Centre's research programs and supports capacity building and research infrastructure
- Generate high-quality research outputs that align directly with the Centre's research programs
- Take significant intellectual responsibility for the conception and conduct of the Centre and any strategic decisions required in its pursuit and communication of results.
- Ensure adequate supervision, support, mentoring and sponsorship at all times of research personnel, including Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates and postdoctoral researchers for whom they are responsible.

Chief Investigators are expected to contribute to the Centre in the following ways:

- Undertake an active leadership role in the Centre.
- Actively participate in Centre research projects, training programs, and public-facing Centre activities.
- Continue to conduct research that is closely aligned with the research priorities of the Centre, collaborate with other Centre researchers, and engage in HDR student supervision and mentoring activities.
- Maintain an active research profile as appropriate for the level and type of appointment.
- Actively contribute to all the Centre KPIs.

Affiliate Investigators

To be included as an Affiliate Investigator, an applicant *will generally* need to meet the following criteria:

- QUT academic staff member with a substantive continuing or fixed term appointment with a minimum 20% research load; and
- Is undertaking research that is aligned with the research priorities of the Centre.

Affiliated Investigators are expected to contribute to the Centre in the following ways:

- Maintain an active research profile as appropriate for the level and type of appointment.
- Continue to conduct research that is aligned with the research priorities of the Centre, as well as maintain connectivity and openness to collaboration with the Centre Chief Investigators and other Centre researchers through research projects, scholarly activities, and HDR student supervision.

Research Fellows

To be included as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow, you must.

- Be supervised by a Centre Chief Investigator
- Be a QUT academic staff member employed on external funding as part of a senior researcher's grant or project, e.g., a postdoctoral fellow employed under an ARC Discovery Project.
- Undertake research that is closely aligned with the research priorities of the Centre.
- Actively contribute to the research programs/platforms and operations of the Centre.
- Be working towards attracting and securing external funding that aligns directly with the Centre's research programs and supports capacity building and research infrastructure.
- Be working towards generating high-quality research outputs that align directly with the Centre's research programs.
- Ensure adequate supervision, support, mentoring and sponsorship at all times of research personnel, including Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates and postdoctoral researchers for whom they are responsible.

Research Fellows are expected to contribute to the Centre in the following ways:

- Actively participate in Centre research projects, research training programs, and public-facing Centre activities.
- Continue to conduct research that is closely aligned with the Centre's research priorities, collaborate with other Centre researchers, and engage in HDR student supervision and mentoring activities.
- Maintain an active research profile as appropriate for the level and type of appointment.

Higher Degree Research Students

NB: HDRs are automatically members if the criteria below are met.

Participation is extended to HDR students who meet the following criteria:

- Have a Chief Investigator or Research Fellow as a supervisor.
- Are enrolled at QUT in a PhD or an MPhil.
- Are undertaking a research topic that is closely aligned with the research priorities of the Centre.
- HDR students are expected to contribute to the Centre in the following ways:
- Through active participation in Centre research training programs and public-facing Centre activities.
- Maintain an active profile on the Centre website.

External Collaborators

Participation may be extended to Adjunct Professors, Honorary Fellows, Visiting Fellows, Industry Fellows, and Industry Partners who are researchers from outside QUT who wish to be aligned with the research activity of the Centre and meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate that their research is of high quality.
- That their research is aligned with the research priorities of the Centre.
- That their affiliation is of strategic benefit to the Centre

Honorary Fellows, Visiting Fellows and Industry Fellows are expected to contribute to the Centre in the following ways:

- Co-author publications and affiliate with CES on other publications.
- Active participation in research training programs, seminars, and public-facing Centre activities.
- Continue to conduct research that is aligned with the Centre's research priorities, as well as maintain connectivity and openness to collaboration with other Centre researchers through research projects and scholarly activities.

Affiliation and Acknowledgement

For publications aligned to the Centre:

Participants are required to include the Centre in their author affiliation; the author affiliation is:

- School
- Centre for Environment and Society
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, QLD 4000, Australia
- Participants should include '1469140 – Centre for Environment and Society' as an organisational unit/Research Centre when adding their research publications to QUT's Pure research management system.
- If the research was funded directly by CES, a funding acknowledgement should be included in the publication.

The acknowledgement text is:

Centre for Environment and Society Author 1] and [Centre for Environment and Society Author 2] acknowledge continued support for the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) through the Centre for Environment and Society.

Appointment Process

Chief Investigators, Affiliated Investigators and Research Fellows:

- Self-nominate by completing a Centre Participation Application Form
- The Centre Leadership Team will then consider each application.
- Ad-hoc nominations will be accepted (e.g., arrival of new staff)

HDR Students:

- Must be a QUT HDR Student; all HDR Students registered with QUT and supervised by a Centre CI or Research Fellow will automatically be members.
- If you wish your profile to be added to the website, please complete this HDR Web Profile Request Form
- If a student's research does not align with the Centre, they may choose to opt out by sending an email to the Centre and their supervisor.

External Collaborators, Adjunct Professors, Partners, Visitors and Adjuncts:

- Must be nominated by a Chief Investigator by emailing the Centre directly.
- The Centre Leadership Team will then consider each application.
- Visitors and Adjuncts must follow normal QUT approval processes for these appointments (MOPP B2/2.1).

Cessation of Participation:

- On separation from QUT, all participants will automatically cease alignment with the Centre unless the Director agrees in writing.
- Participants can request in writing to the Director to withdraw from the Centre.
- All Centre Membership will be reviewed on an ad-hoc basis by the Centre Leadership Team.

Link to Application for Chief Investigators, Affiliated Investigators and Research Fellows:

[Centre Participation Application Form](#)