

Research for Real-world Impact

Graduate School of Business and Law



Overview

The Graduate School of Business and Law (GSBL) is recognised as a centre of excellence in terms of stakeholder engagement, research quality, industry engaged classrooms, and real-world impact. In an open and collaborative intellectual environment, our culturally diverse academics stand at the frontiers of interdisciplinary knowledge creation that is both rigorous and relevant, benefiting business, the legal system, and society at large.

The GSBL pursues a social impact research strategy based on teamwork and co-authorship, well suited to the multidisciplinary nature of the fields of Business and Law. GSBL's partners are organisations operating in a range of different sectors and across Australia, the Asia Pacific, and the world. Our approach focusses on co-creation with stakeholders and is centred around empowering human creativity and applying interdisciplinary teams to transform processes and to redefine the way organisations create value. Through our research, the school aims to develop thought leaders in important social, environmental, technological, and economic debates.

The GSBL houses the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Executive MBA, Juris Doctor (JD) and undergraduate Law programs (LLB) that support a life-long learning approach. The school has state of the art resources in a heritage listed building with access to creative spaces that assist us with knowledge creation, translation, and impact.

The school actively pursues research on the future of the (postgraduate) classroom for leadership development, including work on rapidly developing technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Virtual and Augmented Reality (VR/AR) and innovative use of deep industry partnerships in hybrid classes. Our teaching programs are intricately linked to our research efforts, and we teach students the same techniques that we use to help solve the most complex problems.

Research Themes

Dispute Resolution, Justice Innovations, Health and Fairness

We engage in cutting-edge research with industry partners to formulate and trial innovative approaches to resolving disputes in the civil and criminal justice systems. We explore access to justice issues including processes and procedures within justice systems and their impact on vulnerable citizens, and we make recommendations to improve them. Examples include a Legal Services Board-funded project on 'Reducing barriers to employment for Aboriginal people' which influenced legislative reform in Victoria through new spent convictions legislation, and a partnership with the Mediator Standards Board exploring 'reality testing' in mediation with implications for ethical standards for mediators. Our researchers are also actively involved in mental health system reform through an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant entitled "Taking control: variations in forced psychiatric treatment in the community".

Innovation, Emerging Technologies, and Governance

Bringing new products and services to the marketplace involves risks and it is important to note that many innovations fail in some way or form. Our research tries to understand management approaches and strategies that help facilitate success such as through Design Thinking, cross functional management practices, data analytics & market intelligence, and leadership. Innovations may impose risks to society and our work tries to offer governance frameworks and mechanisms that facilitate responsible innovation and positive social impact (e.g., triple bottom line strategies).

Labour, Gig Economy, Union Transformation

In this research we explore how technology and new business models have been deployed to erode traditional worker protections, and the ways in which trade unions and other worker representatives have responded to these challenges. We develop reform proposals for industry, unions and governments to ensure that innovative technologies lead to fairer outcomes consistent with the social licence of responsible businesses.

The Business and Human Rights Research Centre (BHRIGHT)

GSBL hosts the Business and Human Right Research Centre, a social impact research centre that addresses the human rights impact of business through research, education, innovation, and collaboration. BHRIGHT is the first centre for business and human rights in Australia and it hosts a global network of researchers and partners that want to achieve positive change on the nexus between Business and Human Rights.

BHRIGHT proactively participates in law reform and public policy debates nationally and internationally. We also conduct empirical studies to build evidence of human rights and business impact - amplifying the voices of affected communities and workers. The Centre uses a range of conceptual frameworks and methods in analysing contemporary problems in business and human rights and develops solutions for a future that is fairer, more equitable and sustainable.

The Centre runs master classes, consultancies, and design labs to generate and share innovation as well as train current and future leaders to develop and integrate human rights standards in their respective industry contexts and practices. BHRIGHT also has a long-standing partnership with the Red Cross in relation to conflict zones, global supply chains, and human rights.

Research with impact

Our goal is to create real world impact and use our resources in ways that support high quality outputs in a range of impactful journals and outlets, including top academic journals. Most importantly we aim to support knowledge-based pathways to change lives for the better. We always focus on actively translating our research outcomes for industry, business, and government stakeholders.

Higher Degrees by Research

We offer a range of Higher Degree by Research Opportunities in Law and Business. We welcome enquiries to join our multidisciplinary research community and work alongside thought leaders and industry partners to pursue your research ambitions. When applying for any of our Higher Degree by Research programs you may choose to either do so with an advertised proposed project or an independent topic of your own. Every project will involve and internship at a relevant industry or professional partner.

Social Value Creation and Environmental Sustainability

This research explores how organisations (i.e., corporations, social enterprises, NGOs) co-create, deliver, and capture value with customers and wider societal stakeholders. In contemporary markets, experienced and perceived value goes increasingly beyond economic benefits and includes environmental and social benefits as well. This provides new commercial opportunities and emerging challenges for managers and organisations. The development and adoption of more circular business models plays a key role in our research on food waste reduction, the construction industry, and energy fairness in regions.

Leadership Excellence, Healthy Workplaces, Organisation Performance

This core research theme is centred on managing and leading people in organisations to achieve thriving and sustainable work and career outcomes. For example, we concentrate on how to enhance organisational culture, optimise human resource management systems, develop responsible leadership, and build employees' personal resources to enable individuals and teams to thrive at work and in a broader career environment. In many cases, we investigate these areas in international and cross-cultural contexts.



General Enquiries

If you are interested in embarking on a Higher Degree by Research program in our School, or if you are interested in collaborating or partnering with us on research topics listed above, please contact: