



The Mosque in Australia after 1945

The School of Architecture and Built Environment seeks a passionate scholar to pursue a PhD focusing on Muslim communities in Australia today.

Islam has a continuous and vibrant history in Australia which predates Federation. Muslim Macassan fishermen from Sulawesi have been recorded in northern Australian waters since the eighteenth century. Indentured Malay pearl divers worked in Western Australia in the mid to late nineteenth century. The arrival of Muslims in substantial numbers coincides with the colonial history of Australia and the earliest efforts to explore and exploit the arid interior with the arrival of camels and cameleers after 1860.

In this context, modest, ephemeral congregational mosques were built throughout the continental interior from Cloncurry to Coolgardie (more famously known for the Royal Flying Doctor Service or the western gold rush respectively), and the legacy of these Muslim pioneers is materialised in urban mosques in Adelaide (c.1888), Perth (c.1905), and Brisbane (c.1909).

Despite these crucial historical contributions of Muslim pioneers, general knowledge about the place of Islam in Australia is poor. Yet, the nation's significant Muslim population continues to grow and prosper. The 2016 Census

of Population and Housing identified Islam as one of the most prominent non-Christian religions in Australia. The growth rate of Islam in Australia was 27 percent between 2011 and 2016 and at this time 93 percent of Muslims resided within a Greater Capital City Statistical Area (ABS, 18 January 2018). As a place of congregational prayer, a locus for community activities and a statement of belonging, Australia's mosques provide a tangible opportunity to investigate collaborations between Muslim communities and architects to contribute to understanding of Muslims in Australia today.

This focus on architecture offers an innovative perspective to examine Islam in Australia at the level of the community. It is anticipated that this focus will reveal examples of interaction and collaboration which offer a valuable counterpoint to isolationist representations of Islam in Australia. The long-term objective is to build research capacity which focuses on building faith (literally and metaphorically) in multicultural Australia.

This PhD project is a component of a larger research project entitled *The Australian Mosque Today: Architectural Collaborations* which is funded by the Australian Research Council – Special Research Initiative for Australian Society, History and Culture. It is anticipated that the successful student will have the opportunity to travel to different cities in Australia and to visit specific mosques as part of the field work with support from the project grant.

Supporting Diversity

This PhD is offered in the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences (ECMS). The Faculty supports diversity in all areas.

For more information on the Faculty's Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, view <https://ecms.adelaide.edu.au/engage-with-us/diversity-and-inclusion>

Eligibility

Applicants must be acceptable as candidates for a [PhD degree](#) at the University of Adelaide, Faculty of Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences, School of Architecture and Built Environment, and would be able to commence in 2022.

Stipend

The scholarship will be for 3 years and has a stipend of \$28,854 (indexed annually) per annum. It is likely to be tax exempt, subject to Taxation Office approval.

Further Enquiries

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For scholarship information, view <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/scholarships>