The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment is one of six institutes within the Western Sydney University.

In the space of just a few years, it has rapidly become the leading centre of research excellence in ecosystem function and environmental responses to changing climates with a strong reputation for delivering research outcomes of the highest quality.

With extensive national and international collaborations and partnerships, the Institute offers access to world-class research facilities and scientific talent to address the most important questions facing our changing world.

The Institute’s integrated research portfolio is aligned around three broad themes:

- **Soil Biology and Genomics**
- **Plants, Animals and Interactions**
- **Ecosystem Function and Integration**

The Institute’s highly-integrated research themes lead to worldwide collaborations and partnerships with industry and research organisations to jointly tackle the largest environmental and scientific challenges of our time.

The Institute is situated on the beautiful Hawkesbury campus of the Western Sydney University in Richmond, New South Wales.

This location provides easy access to international airports, the urban rail and motorway network that makes travelling to the Institute easy and efficient.

The Institute’s field facilities are based in remnant Cumberland Plain forest, providing a unique setting based on naturally low-nutrient soils that closely replicate native ecosystems in Eastern Australia.

For visiting colleagues, Richmond offers easy access to many of Sydney’s finest attractions including the Blue Mountains, Sydney City and Western NSW.
Unique Field Facilities for a Changing Climate

The Institute has a world-first set of facilities for field-based climate research including:

**EucFACE** is the world’s only native-forest Free Air CO₂ Enrichment (FACE) experiment that exposes full-height trees to elevated CO₂ through six 25m rings with access via 43m high cranes.

**Twelve Whole Tree Chambers** provide a range of environmental conditions from elevated or reduced CO₂, temperature or rainfall conditions for trees up to nine metres high.

**Six Large Rainout Shelters** enable controlled exposure to drought and automatically close during rainfall events, enabling researchers to assess responses to drying and wetting conditions.

**Forty-eight small rainout shelters** provide controlled watering to grass pasture and small plant experiments to assess the effect of drought on carbon cycling, soil biology and plant growth.

**The Cumberland Plains Carbon And Water Observatory** provides a baseline measure of CO₂ and water flow in the forest, enabling researchers to compare the effects of elevated CO₂ against ambient forest conditions.

**Three state-of-the-art greenhouses** currently hold the insectary and native plant experiments with fully controlled CO₂ and temperature conditions.
Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

STUDY WITH US

The Institute is growing rapidly and offers a stimulating, safe environment for postgraduate students and researchers using facilities that are unmatched in their scale and currency.

The Institute seeks high-achieving Masters and PhD candidates as well as selected early and mid-career researchers across a variety of disciplines.

For student candidates, there are several scholarships available and generous provisions for scholarship top-ups available through the Western Sydney University which offer some of the highest stipends available in Australia.

The Institute runs a popular Higher Degree Research program that offers a wide selection of projects across the research disciplines.

Contact us today to see how the Institute can become your destination of choice in leading-edge science and research.

COLLABORATE WITH US

The Institute collaborates with partners from across the world with highly successful research measures.

Institute scientists can tailor a flexible solution to answer environmental challenges at any scale for a wide range of industries and enterprises.

Our well-balanced team of innovative, high-achieving researchers and unique field and laboratory-based facilities offers you a unique environment dedicated to answering urgent questions about environmental change.

The Institute also fosters emerging scientific talent and offers scholarships and fellowships to early and mid-career researchers. To find out more about partnering with the Institute, please contact us today.