Charles Darwin University is an Australian university with a primary interest in Southeast Asia and northern Australia. Located in Australia’s most northerly capital city of Darwin, on the southern rim of Southeast Asia, Charles Darwin University (CDU) is renowned for its research expertise and leadership in tropical, desert and Indigenous knowledge of the Australian and Asia-Pacific regions.

Darwin’s nearest neighbours are some of the great cities of Southeast Asia. It is closer to seven major Asian cities than it is to any Australian capital. CDU is the only university based in the Northern Territory, one of Australia’s eight States and Territories.

The university provides education, training, research expertise and commercial consulting services within a culturally diverse and geographically large area. Along with its predecessor institutions, CDU has helped to strengthen communities and influence the social and economic development of northern Australia and the Asia-Pacific region for more than 50 years.

**Scope of activity**

CDU is a dual-sector university, which means we offer a full spectrum of education and training opportunities in Higher Education and in Vocational Education and Training (VET). The diversity of our study programs and delivery methods is rare among Australia’s universities.

The university delivers Higher Education Bachelors and Masters degrees, and advanced research Doctorates. More than 50% of our Higher Education students undertake their studies on line from their home bases across Australia and overseas.

Some 21,000 students study with CDU and almost two-thirds of these are enrolled in VET programs. CDU also delivers training into more than 170 sites in remote locations across the Territory.

CDU is a research-intensive university. Our research activity, which is commonly undertaken through partnerships and alliances with other universities and researchers nationally and internationally, reflects the culturally and biologically diverse Northern Territory.
Research structure
The university’s research activity takes place within institutes and centres, which encourage cross-discipline collaboration:

- Menzies School of Health Research
- The Northern Institute
- The Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods
- The Research Centre for Health and Wellbeing
- The Centre for Renewable Energy and Low Emission Technology (in partnership with the NT Government)
- Centre for Hydrocarbon Research, Education and Training (in partnership with the NT Government)
- The Australian Centre of Indigenous Knowledges and Education (in partnership with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education).

Menzies School of Health Research
Menzies is Australia’s leader in Indigenous and tropical health research. Through its scientific excellence, education and research, the School is discovering ways to reduce the impact of disease and improve the health and well-being of people living in Australia and beyond. Menzies’ research is being used to better prevent, treat and diagnose disease. Expertise is focused in the areas of clinical science and medicine, biomedical science, medical microbiology, epidemiology and public health.

The Northern Institute
The Institute functions as a bridge for the exchange of knowledge, research and dialogue for the improvement of communities of northern Australia and its near neighbours in Asia. The Institute sponsors Fellows and thinkers-in-residence to lead and stimulate research and public engagement, provides public commentary on national and international issues and fosters postgraduate research. Expertise focuses on public and social policy and demography.
The Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods

The Institute provides multidisciplinary research for the prosperity of northern Australian and its near neighbours. Researchers have specialist knowledge in ecology, marine science, spatial science, sociology and economics, and contribute to managing a rapidly growing economy in a manner that conserves environmental values. Staff tackle the complex interactions between environment, society and the economy.

The Research Centre for Health and Wellbeing

The Research Centre undertakes health and wellbeing research as it relates to individuals and families in their community contexts with a focus on interdisciplinary and intercultural approaches. Areas of strength include health systems research and review (including health workforce education, transdisciplinary knowledge transfer, interdisciplinary and intercultural health communication), Indigenous health and wellbeing (including chronic disease self-management, child development and child rearing practices), psychosocial aspects of wellbeing and health care (social work, community development, organisational psychology, care-giving), and nursing research (aged care, obesity and exercise, child protection).

The Centre for Renewable Energy and Low Emission Technology

The Centre develops programs and capabilities to drive growth in renewable energy and low-emissions technology in the Northern Territory by providing informed guidance, targeted research, demonstration activities and education/training in both the vocational and higher education sectors.

Its research and development capabilities include Photoexcitation induced processes in amorphous semiconductors, developing scintillators with superior energy resolution, designing of polymer and organic light emitting devices, power system analysis, mechanical engineering of Solar System Components, hydraulic and hydrodynamic modelling, energy industry analysis, designing policy incentives, adaptation and vulnerability to climate change, and remote sensing and GIS applications.

Centre for Hydrocarbon Research, Education and Training (in partnership with the NT Government)

The Centre is in its early stages of development and will offer cutting-edge specialist research services and accredited education and training to the developing oil and gas industry in northern Australia and Southeast Asia.

The Australian Centre of Indigenous Knowledges and Education

The Australian Centre of Indigenous Knowledges and Education (ACIKE) will be a national leader in transformative teaching and learning, research and community engagement. It is a collaboration between the CDU and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Its key research strengths include:

- continuous improvement of the types of academic support to maximise Indigenous students higher education outcomes
- theorising and testing praxis (innovative and evidence based teaching and learning)
- creating intercultural research spaces for cultural knowledge exchange, learning and teaching; and
- building a stakeholder network group to foster Indigenous economic, social and cultural identity capital through research programs.

Developing areas of research strength

Expertise is being developed in creative industry research including: creative technology and innovation, creative enterprises, and Indigenous creative arts. A second area of growing research strength is in the field of education and teacher preparation.
Partnerships and alliances

Active partnerships and strong alliances are central to our success. They ensure that the knowledge we generate helps to build the communities of our region, and delivers value to business, industry and government:

**Innovative Research Universities**: CDU is one of seven members of Australia’s Innovative Research Universities network, through which the members direct their expert knowledge, capabilities and resources to enhance the outcomes of higher education. CDU sits alongside Flinders, Griffith, James Cook, La Trobe, Murdoch and Newcastle universities in the network.

**Flinders University**: The University’s medical program partnership with Flinders University in South Australia is about to deliver medical training wholly within the Northern Territory for the first time. The first generation of doctors to be trained in the Territory will begin the program at CDU in 2011. The Centre for Remote Health, based in Central Australia, is also a joint venture with Flinders University.

**Australian National University**: CDU and ANU have a strategic alliance to foster research co-operation between the institutions and give students and staff access to fieldwork and study opportunities at the partnering university.

**Northern Territory Government**: The Territory relies on a robust and responsive university to help drive its economic and social development. The Northern Territory Government and CDU Partnership is a formal agreement that is unique for an Australian university and supports education, research, policy development and program delivery.

**Marine science**: The Australian National University, the Australian Institute of Marine Science, the NT Government and CDU are members of an innovative partnership that delivers cooperative research, academic and training activities, and expanded research infrastructure, to ensure sustainable and community-friendly development of tropical marine resources.

**Navitas Ltd** is a global education provider and industry leader in pre-university and alternative pathway programs for people within Australia and overseas. CDU and Navitas Ltd are developing a program of education and training activities for people in the Northern Territory and the region.

**ACL** provides high quality English language training, settlement and related services. The centre caters for international and domestic students, and migrants and refugees settling in Australia. The ACL English Centre is located on the Casuarina campus.
Collaboration with universities internationally

CDU has a range of formal agreements for research collaboration with a wide range of universities internationally and is continuing to develop new associations. Universities with which CDU has research-related formal agreements or is in the process of developing agreements include:

**Vietnam**
- University of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology
- Nha Trang University
- Vietnam National University

**Indonesia**
- Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta
- Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana
- Universitas Islam Negeri
- Universitas Nusa Cendana
- Universitas Indonesia
- Bogor Agricultural University
- Gadjah Mada University
- Universitas Hasanuddin
- University of Surabaya
- Faculty of Animal Husbandry, Padjadjaran University
- The University of Mataram
- Yayasan Kristen untuk Kesehatan Umum
- Universitas Negeri Papua
- Mahasaraswati University

**Malaysia**
- Universiti Malaysia
- Institut Alam Sekitar Dan Pembangunan
- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

**China**
- Wuhan University of Technology
- North University of China
- Hainan University
- Hubei University

**Timor Leste**
- Universidade Nacional Timor Lорасе (UNTL)
- Institute of Business (IOB)
- Dili Institute of Technology (DIT)
- East Timor Development Agency (ETDA)
- Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry (MTCI)

**Austria**
- Tourism Research Centre, Krems

**Canada**
- Mount Royal College
- First Nations University

**Denmark**
- University of Aarhus

**United Kingdom**
- University of Greenwich

**International**
- UNU Centre for Traditional Knowledge