



Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) **Introduction to Heron Island Research Station and EMS**

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The University of Queensland was established by an Act of State Parliament on 10th December 1909. As the oldest and largest of eight Queensland higher education institutions, the University has the State's most comprehensive range of high quality courses including many unique in Queensland or of limited availability elsewhere.

The University of Queensland is known internationally as one of Australia's leading universities. It has well-recognised strengths in both teaching and research, and its graduates enjoy an exceptionally low unemployment rate.

Underpinning its teaching programs are the research activities which have earned the University a place among the top four of Australia's 40 Universities, and attract a high level of competitively-derived external funding.

While the St Lucia campus remains its academic and administrative centre, the University also maintains teaching and research facilities in other parts of the city and state.

The University operates marine research stations at Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef and at Dunwich on Stradbroke Island in Moreton Bay; and there are physics research stations at Pinjarra Hills, Splyard Creek in the Brisbane Valley, Peak Crossing near Amberley and on Bribie Island.

Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) is one of the main coral reef research centres in the world. It is the major island research station on the Great Barrier Reef and is Australia's largest university marine research station. Accordingly, it plays an important and significant role in research into and education about the marine sciences.

The purpose of HIRS is to facilitate scientists and students from around the world to pursue postgraduate and independent research in the marine sciences, especially those features that pertain to coral reefs. For many years, the Station has also been the major field centre on the Great Barrier Reef for education about coral reef science at secondary and tertiary levels. It is the policy of The University of Queensland to maintain the Station's prominent position in coral reef research and teaching through support from its academic and capital development and the charging of bench fees, all of which are made available to HIRS.