

Griffith University Pre-Budget Submission

Griffith University

Griffith University is a highly ranked Australian university with an international outlook, which is deeply connected to the communities that we serve in South East Queensland.

Our research excellence, innovative teaching, and learning practices, along with our strong ties to industry, make us one of the leading providers of higher education in the Asia–Pacific.

We also continue the commitment to expanding educational access of our namesake, Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, who was twice the Premier of Queensland, the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and the principal author of the Australian Constitution.

With campuses across South East Queensland educating a broad cross-section of our community, Griffith University is a proven partner of industry and a training ground for the skilled workers.

Over 80% of the University’s students are domestic students. Our international students come from over 130 different countries with no single international cohort making up more than 5% of the total student body. Griffith University has been very deliberate in managing both its financial position and its exposure to changes in international student markets. While we have been financially challenged by the impact on the international student market, our financial prudence in recent years puts us in a position to co-invest with government.

Over the last five years there has been no over-reliance on any single country with the top three countries constituting a small part of our total student body: China 5%, India 2%, mix of South Korea, USA and Hong Kong (1% each).

Griffith’s recent strategy commits us to educating Graduates of the Future who are ready to enter the workplace and to research that is measured by its positive impacts locally, nationally and globally. Our capital plan is focused on delivering those outcomes.

Griffith University during COVID

Griffith University has demonstrated its commitment to its local communities during the recent COVID-19 crisis pivoting to research in areas such as vaccines and treatments, mental health and domestic violence challenges in lockdown, and economic policy. Students and staff have also utilised their skills and facilities to produce face shields, sanitiser, cheap ventilators for developing countries, and food for students in need. We have done this despite the serious financial challenges in 2020 and anticipated beyond.

We recognise that the likely changes to international student numbers in coming years will require a strategic response from universities and will complete this year the Roadmap to Sustainability program which will lead to ongoing reductions in salary and non-salary costs.

Griffith University recognises the significant work undertaken by the Australian Government in limiting the social and economic impacts of the pandemic and helping to make the country's outcomes among the best in the world.

Griffith University—The rebuild

To aid Australia's recovery and regrowth efforts in the short term and establish productive STEM and advanced manufacturing focused infrastructure that will contribute for decades to come, Griffith University is seeking a \$70m investment co-contribution from the Australian Government as part of a \$210m science and innovation development plan.

This investment, alongside a \$70m investment from the University, will be leveraged to unlock a \$70m contribution from the Queensland Government.

In effect, a one-dollar investment from the Federal government will deliver a total of \$3 of value for the South East region of Queensland.

The proposed partnership is expected to:

- facilitate 640 jobs over 4 years during the construction phase
- grow Griffith University's \$2.1b total economic contribution through research commercialisation, co-location of industry partners and start-ups, and the development of new industries.

Additionally, through a combination of co-location and other investment opportunities, the new facilities will further deepen the University's strong connection to, and collaboration with, a range of key industries nationwide, providing long-term economic and social benefits, engagement, and impact.

Projects

Advanced Design and Prototyping Technologies (ADaPT) \$100 million

Located within the Gold Coast's Health and Knowledge Precinct, ADaPT is envisaged as a 'one-stop shop' for advanced design, proto-typing and manufacturing. To the best of our knowledge, it is unique in Australia in providing end to end services to industry from design through to advanced 3D printed prototypes.

With advanced design at its centre and collaboration at its core, ADaPT combines leading-edge expertise in micro and nanoscience, complex imaging, 3D digital scanning, 3D functional modelling, bioengineering, industrial design, big data analytics, artificial intelligence and specialist expertise in designing advanced manufacturing processes. ADaPT is equipped with extensive advanced 3D printing technologies including multiple metal, polymer, and bio printing capabilities.

ADaPT will lead pioneering work into areas including spinal cord injury and rehabilitation, digital twinning, virtual surgery and functional nano-materials. There is already a strong relationship with the adjunct Gold Coast University Hospital, as well as other industry partners.

It is noteworthy that the impact of COVID-19 has been particularly stark for the Gold Coast community, which is likely to suffer continuing economic hardship from loss of international tourism dollars. Not only would the ADaPT project provide much needed short-term construction work, but it would also help to build a more economically diversified future for the Gold Coast to help make it more resilient to such shocks in the future.

The \$100m shovel-ready project will also:

- place the region and Griffith University at the forefront of new approaches to advanced manufacturing in Australia—advances that will be central to the nation's rejuvenation in the post-COVID-19 environment
- allow industry to prototype and scale manufacturable and marketable products for commercialisation, helping to spur technological and economic growth at a federal level
- enable the sharing of knowledge, technology, specialist equipment, services and infrastructure with industry
- provide opportunities for start-up collaboration spaces
- assist in attracting companies to the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge precinct
- deliver research excellence in areas key to the country's short- and long-term financial health.

Griffith has piloted a smaller version of ADaPT on its current campus. Interest by industry has been considerable.

There are industry partners with interest in taking space in the new building from areas as diverse as health (Saluda Medical; Fourier Intelligence) to aviation (Ryan Aerospace) and others who will use services provided by ADaPT in areas such as additive and advanced manufacturing (Geofabrics; Laserdyne; magniX; Magnetica; Riviera) and tooling and process development support (Camtech Engineering; Cochlear).

Science and Innovation Precinct

\$110 million

The second development is a state-of-the-art science and innovation \$110m precinct at Griffith's Nathan campus. The precinct expands the capacity of Griffith's high-level science research facilities and further strengthens Griffith's capacity in areas such as drug discovery, climate adaptation, micro and nanotechnology, and big data and artificial intelligence.

The Nathan precinct has been planned as a world-leading hub of influential and impactful scientific and technological expertise and includes a new teaching facility which opened in 2020.

The development of a new Science precinct will enable Griffith to integrate its sciences around key problems and challenges that seek to combine new interdisciplinary approaches such as the application of big data and AI methodologies.

This will be coupled to new core facilities, including imaging, state of the art mass spectroscopy and analytical facilities, all of which will be open for external consultancy.

These will be world leading interdisciplinary facilities that allow both researchers and students to push the boundaries of discovery in a truly transdisciplinary way to answer to some of our most pressing problems.

The Science research facility at Nathan campus will become home to a range of respected research centres, including the nationally renowned Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD), which is playing a role in finding a vaccine for COVID-19 using its rapid vaccination technology and expertise in natural product libraries and drug discovery.

GRIDD is deeply engaged with industry and is currently engaged with more than 25 industry partnerships in a range of scientific fields of study, with a further 18 new capability discussions under way with organisations across Australia. Its Compounds Australia small molecules library provides services to universities and research facilities around the country.

In addition, the new facility will house the Environmental Futures Research Institute, which is working with partners on issues from agribiotechnology and food security to bushfire prevention, and the Queensland Micro and Nanotechnology Centre which is working on sensing and diagnostic technologies with both start-ups and established businesses.

Importantly, the Nathan precinct will be a crucial source of employment and the knowledge and skills needed to help Australia mitigate COVID-19's impacts and safeguard the country against future threats to its biosecurity and beyond. It will include dedicated space for industry partners.

Griffith's investment in the project can begin immediately with \$40m of enabling works to occur in 2020.

Alignment with Australian Government policies

Finally, the developments are inextricably aligned with the Australian Government's expressed policies for 2020–2030 across a range of important portfolios, including the:

1. Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Australia 2030: Prosperity through Innovation)
2. Department of Education, Skills and Employment (National Strategy for International Education 2025)
3. Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Smart Cities Plan)
4. Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Australian International Education 2025).

As part of its broader strategic plan for 2020–2025, Griffith believes the Nathan Science and Innovation Precinct and ADaPT developments on the Gold Coast and the southside of Brisbane are essential to Australia's future ability to anticipate and respond actively to the challenges that await our national community as the mid-21st century approaches.

Conclusion

These shovel-ready projects form part of Griffith's multi campus infrastructure plan which spans across three South East Queensland cities; Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Logan. The plan also includes a new CBD campus in Brisbane and a Professional Education facility at our Nathan campus.

This Australian Government investment, alongside a \$70m investment from the University, will be leveraged to unlock a \$70m contribution from the Queensland Government. In effect, a one-dollar investment from the Federal Government will deliver a total of \$3 of value for South East Queensland.

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Advanced Design and Prototyping Technologies — Gold Coast



Science and Innovation Precinct — Nathan

