

Flinders University
Graduation Ceremonies

Darwin, December 2022

2022

Congratulations

It is my great honour to congratulate our newest graduates on their academic accomplishments.

Graduation from university is a mark of success that reflects the remarkable perseverance, dedication, and investment that you have shown over a sustained period. This has resulted in your success that we are here today to celebrate.

The road towards academic success is by no means an easy one, yet you have shown to yourselves and to those around you that when the going gets tough, you have the grit and determination to keep going.

As you leave us today as graduates, I encourage you to embrace our University values in everything you do by being courageous and innovative, displaying integrity, striving for excellence, and considering the interests of the people who matter most to you.

Your education journey has been particularly special, as you have chosen to undertake your studies in the unique and beautiful Northern Territory. You have seized the opportunity offered to you to undertake work-based study in a regional or remote area, and this shows that you share our commitment to improving communities and the social fabric and health outcomes of this extraordinary part of Australia.

You have all benefited from Flinders University's valuable Territory collaborations, including our longstanding partnership with Charles Darwin University. This partnership facilitates the delivery of our Northern Territory Medical Program, tailored for the unique context of the NT, and producing graduates with the knowledge and skills to be able to meet the healthcare needs of all Territorians.

Equipped with a qualification that you have worked so hard for, there is no doubt in my mind that you will be valued and integral contributors to our society.

As you move into a new chapter of your lives, please keep in touch and let us know how your lives evolve – we will be watching your success and progress with great interest and pride.

For all of us, change is a constant, and you can be assured that Flinders University will continue to grow and improve to ensure you are always proud to call yourself a Flinders graduate.

I wish you all the best as you enter the next stage of your lives and go out into the world to leave your own unique mark.

My warmest wishes for your journey ahead to personal and professional fulfillment.



Stephen Gerlach AM
Chancellor
Flinders University

The Crest

The Flinders University Council adopted a coat of arms for the University on 16 December 1966.

The coat of arms consists of a shield bearing a radiant sun at the base surmounted by an open book on a blue background, with an extract from page 176 of Volume 1 of Matthew Flinders' *A Voyage to Terra Australis* printed on the open pages.

The shield is surmounted by a crest comprising a reproduction of Flinders' ship *Investigator* fully rigged, on a wreath of the University's colours of dark blue, pale blue and white.

The Crest was designed by Kevyn Graham Whisson.

In 2022, the logo was reimaged. Inspired by the ambition of our namesake and the words of our founding Vice-Chancellor Peter Karmel – "*Experiment and experiment bravely*" – Flinders University has always been ready to step away from the security of the familiar and forge new ways forward. As our journey continues, we are evolving our brand and logo to reflect our progress while honouring our past.

Our new aesthetic is designed to capture our strengths as a modern, innovative, inclusive and student-centred organisation.

Flinders University logo evolution



Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which its campuses are located, these are the Traditional Lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging.

Our vision for Reconciliation

Flinders University's collective vision is to foster an environment that recognises and embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, knowledges and cultures. This vision for reconciliation is grounded in the concepts of togetherness, reciprocity, and respect.

We respect and recognise the long-held philosophies, knowledges, research, strengths and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in this country.

Flinders has committed to an Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan following two decades of incremental advances in prioritising Indigenous engagement in higher education. We continue to work across our staff, student and alumni community to increase respectful recognition, knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and contributions.

Explore our Reconciliation Action Plan at:
[Flinders.edu.au/rap](https://flinders.edu.au/rap)

Tiles are designed by Dr. Ali Baker and painted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students during Orientation week at Flinders University.



Welcome, our newest Alumni

It is my pleasure to welcome you as Flinders University alumni, joining more than 120,000 graduates whose skills and abilities are making a difference throughout all facets of our society.

Your graduation represents an important milestone in your life, marking the culmination of your studies where your hard work and dedication is finally rewarded with qualifications that you will have for the rest of your lives.

Your testamur tells the world that you are equipped with a body of advanced knowledge and skills that sets you apart and places you on the path to future success.

So, while your graduation from one of our Northern Territory programmes marks the end of an important chapter in your life, it also represents the beginning of the next and we here at Flinders University look forward to following your progress.

Flinders University was named after the intrepid navigator Matthew Flinders, a man of humble origins who knew his success would rest on the value of his deeds, writing 'Since neither birth nor fortune have favoured me, my actions shall speak to the world.'

At Flinders University, we share our namesake's ambition and commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around us through the value of the work we do. From a quality education that makes a difference in the lives of our students, to the world-class research that makes a difference to communities around the world, Flinders University is helping shape the future for us all.

Now, as a graduate, you will go out into the world, and continue this legacy. Your Flinders education, which has already made a difference in your lives, will equip you with all you need to make a difference in your communities.

As you embark on the next stage of your life's journey, it is my hope that you will continue to strive to make your own mark on the world through the positive value of your actions.

Today you join the Flinders Alumni Network, a rich array of remarkable graduates that reaches around the globe. The Network is here to support you; please stay connected to access the support and resources of our global community, including professional development, networking opportunities, further study, and a range of exclusive Flinders University alumni benefits and services.

On behalf of the University, I congratulate you on your graduation, and wish you every success for whatever your future may bring.



Professor Colin J Stirling
President and Vice-Chancellor
Flinders University

Academic dress

The history of academic dress spans a period of more than 600 years from the earliest days of universities to present. The tradition of wearing academic dress continues in universities around the world.

At Flinders University, the wearing of a hood by the graduate to indicate their College is the principal feature. The hood of Flinders' academic dress is a dark blue. The colours of the hood's lining and piping are prescribed by the University and distinguish the different award and College.

Graduates who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian are entitled to wear a stole of either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander colours, worn over the gown and under the hood.

List of hood piping colours

	Blue for College of Business, Government and Law
	Orange for College of Education, Psychology and Social Work
	Yellow for College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
	Green for College of Medicine and Public Health
	Red for College of Nursing and Health Sciences
	Purple for College of Science and Engineering

Academic dress colours

Academic dress is made up of three parts; the **gown**, the **hood** and the **cap**. The cap is a black mortarboard with black tassel, unless graduating with a doctorate, where a black velvet bonnet with a black cord is worn.



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Gown: Navy with red trim
Hood: Navy with red lining (no piping)



Doctorate (other than PhD and Doctor of Medicine)

Gown: Red with coloured trim
Hood: Navy with red lining and coloured piping



Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Clinical Sciences and Doctor of Medicine

Gown: Black with glove sleeves
Hood: Navy with light green lining (no piping)



Masters

Gown: Black with glove sleeves
Hood: Navy with pale blue lining and coloured piping



Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas

Gown: Black with open sleeves
Hood: Navy with pale blue lining (no piping)



Bachelor

Gown: Black with open sleeves
Hood: Navy with white lining and coloured piping



Undergraduate, Associate Degrees and Associate Diplomas

Gown: Black with open sleeves
Hood: Navy with white lining (no piping)

Graduation ceremony

Tuesday 13 December 2022
3pm
Darwin Convention Centre

PROGRAM

Entry of Academic Procession

Australian National Anthem

Welcome to Country

Opening of Proceedings

Speeches

Presentation of Graduates

Closing of Proceedings

Afternoon Tea

*Cultural dance performance supported by Australian
Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)*

Officers of the University

Chancellor

Mr Stephen Gerlach AM

Deputy Chancellors

Mr Stephen Hains AM

Ms Elizabeth Perry AM

President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Colin J Stirling

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Professor Romy Lawson

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Professor Robert Saint AM

Vice-President and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)

Mr Sebastian Raneskold

Vice-President (Corporate Services)

Mr Mark Gregory

General Counsel & University Secretary

Mr David Lim

College Vice-Presidents and Executive Deans

Business, Government and Law

Professor Michael Gilding

Education, Psychology and Social Work

Professor Deborah West

Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Peter Monteath

Medicine and Public Health

Professor Jonathan Craig

Nursing and Health Sciences

Professor Alison Kitson

Science and Engineering

Professor Alistair Rendell

Graduates - Doctor of Medicine

Flinders University is recognised globally as a leader in medical education and universities worldwide have adopted the curriculum of our medical program. The program integrates clinical medicine with a strong underpinning in the relevant biomedical sciences, while also providing students with a broader understanding of health in a range of social contexts, with a commitment to social justice and equity.

As a professional qualification, the Flinders University Doctor of Medicine (MD) is accredited by the Australian Medical Council to deliver outstanding clinical and academic training, ensuring students are well prepared for the challenges of internship and future professional training.

The Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP), which commenced in 2011 in partnership with Charles Darwin University and the NT Government, has enabled the full four years of the Flinders MD to be taught in the Northern Territory. Over the last decade, 24 Territorians each year have the opportunity to study to become a doctor without having to leave home. The MD provides high quality accredited medical education to local students. Curriculum delivery is innovative, using the latest technologies to ensure quality teaching across the Australian Central Corridor in a variety of settings, preparing a fit-for-context medical workforce for rural and remote Australia and Indigenous Australians. Building on 40 years of success, students learn on Flinders campuses and in partner health services in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy, as well as some of the most remote primary health care centres in Australia. The NTMP taps into the deep vein of clinical and public health expertise of local practitioners who are national and international leaders in their field.

While graduates are skilled to practice anywhere in the world, the contextualised curriculum of the NTMP ensures that we produce graduates who are Territorians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people trained in the Territory, for the Territory.

Congratulations to the 2022 graduates of the Northern Territory Medical Program.

College of Medicine and Public Health

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Maria Mikhaila Leanna Amud Barrozo

Rochelle Basset

Yen Yu Chen

Sayed Fayaaz Ferozkhan

Jordan Lesieli Sulifa Fullarton

Parthiv Rajesh Gaykar

Jasper Ralph Hutt

Aayush Jaitly

Karlie Leonie Christine James

Sowmya Kalase

Sarita Jane Lawler

Jacob Curran Longstaff

Meyuri Mahendrarajah

Elliana Jay Miles

Callum Robert Montague

Tatenda Rodwell Muridzi

Zarina Hannah Pido

Melissa Ruth Lena Ann Rosas

Jessie Christina Spargo

Damian Desmond Stedman

Nam Thien Tang

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE WITH DISTINCTION

Marianna Diamandopoulos

Hayley Kelly

Thilini Nadisha Pandithage

Graduates – Other Courses

The College of Medicine and Public Health is delighted to acknowledge the achievements of Northern Territory residents who have completed a range of Flinders University degrees. Since 2020 students from a range of degrees have been given the opportunity to celebrate their achievements here in Darwin with family and their local community. This year 25 Territory graduates join us to celebrate on Larrakia land today. We look forward to your contribution to the Northern Territory workforce in the years to come, and that you continue to join us for alumni events that celebrate over 1200 Northern Territorians who have completed Flinders University degrees over time.

Congratulations!

College of Business, Government and Law

**DEGREE OF MASTER OF BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**

Shan Cairnes

Celebrating 25 years of impact and partnership in the NT

10
years

Celebrating 10 years
of the Northern Territory
Medical Program

This year we have hosted a series of celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the NT Clinical School and Flinders in the Northern Territory.

Our accomplishments have been extraordinary. Over the past 25 years Flinders has served the Territory through the Clinical School in Darwin, the Rural Clinical School (Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek), the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), the Rural Interprofessional Placement Learning program (RIPPL), the Remote Primary Health Care suite of manuals (RPHCM), the Remote Health Practice Program, the Johanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence Mparntwe Centre for Evidence in Health, Poche SA+NT, the Indigenous Entry Stream, the Regional Training Hubs (Alice Springs and Darwin), the Katherine Remote Interprofessional Student Placement Program (KRISPP), membership of Central Australian Academic Health Science Network (CA AHSN), and an ever expanding portfolio of community driven research. In 2021 we celebrated 10 years of the NTMP. Since the program's inception, the NTMP has been providing nearly 50% of the new interns required in the Northern Territory. Graduates to date have included 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, with more conferred at today's graduation celebration. With 20% of graduate entry students identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, the NTMP has the highest percentage of Indigenous students in each intake of all medical programs in Australia.

Most importantly, we have delivered on the primary aim of the NTMP: to produce graduates who are fit-for-practice in the unique context of remote and Indigenous Northern Territory communities.

Flinders is successful in the Northern Territory because of the dedication, goodwill and vision of a collective of students, teachers, clinicians, researchers, academics and professional staff who are steadfast in their commitment to the provision of high quality health care and equitable access to education for our communities in the NT.

To highlight the incredible work of this collective, we have developed a 25 year celebration book that tells individual stories of some of the people who have conceptualised, developed, supported, taught and studied at Flinders in the Northern Territory. These pages provide a sneak peek into the book content's and highlight some of the incredible stories that embody Flinders University's contributions to the Northern Territory and to rural and remote health.



Richard Fejo
Senior Elder on campus
Darwin

"We are still the most disadvantaged people in Australia, and that's not acceptable, but it will take a massive effort of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to make change. That's why I became a cultural educator, equipping doctors and nurses with knowledge to go out into communities, so they understand what they can experience and immerse into our lifestyle and better understand the challenges we face.

"A lot of non-Aboriginal people say to me 'we don't know where to start'. I tell them to go find out whose land they are on, talk to the traditional owners on the land you are standing on, go to a museum and find out more. Knowledge and understanding are essential if we are going to make changes in our health."



Associate Professor
Buddhika Weerasundera
NT Medical Program

"I will always remember the first cohort that graduated: it was very special to me, almost like watching my own children graduate! That's the kind of passion that we all have for medical education here. I am so happy that I can be part of growing the health workforce in the NT, and to contribute even in the smallest possible way."



Madison Ludwig
Student NT Medical
Program

“I was worried that I wasn’t smart enough for medicine. “Then a few people around me said, ‘Just do it, give it a go and if it’s too much, you can always leave.’ Within a few weeks I started to realise it is hard, and there is a lot of time and effort involved, but it’s definitely manageable. I realised that with the Indigenous pathway program, I came into the course just as prepared as everybody else. I am confident now that I will graduate with a whole range of skills that will help me become a confident and competent doctor for all of my future patients, and in particular for my Indigenous patients.”



Associate Professor Emma Kennedy, Academic Coordinator of the Flinders NT Medical Program

“Our society can’t change if we are not aware of the problems and prepared to face up to them and own them. Reconciliation is about working out where things have gone wrong and recognising that. There isn’t a need to beat each other over the back; the biggest thing is to come together and move forward together.

“Through the NTMP I can influence a curriculum, set priorities, and drive a focus on integrating how individual patients and people influence the learning of the doctor. I also am recognising the need to give more access to Aboriginal people in our program to translate real everyday issues for students and to carry the humour and stories of the human condition into the program, so that it is real.”



Kath Martin, Lecturer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

“If I can change one person’s mind and get them thinking outside the box, realising Aboriginal health is not as simple as you might think it is, then I am happy. If I can do that for a whole class, I am even happier!”

“I love teaching. I want to give medical students the opportunities to learn what Aboriginal health means from an Aboriginal perspective, taught by an Aboriginal whose community lives with and is impacted by the health problems that we talk about.”



Dr Kelum Priyadarshana
Clinical Dean and Senior Lecturer
NT Medical Program

“I literally enjoyed every minute of my medical education. There was not a single day I felt tired or unhappy. Studying alongside similar-minded people, working hard together and then having a little bit of fun every now and then was good. I loved medical school and that is one of the reasons I wanted to keep teaching, to be a part of that environment.”

Congratulations!

Now that you have finished your degree at Flinders University, you have become a lifelong member of our Alumni Network. You join over 120,000 Flinders alumni across 130 countries who are finding their place, making their mark and making a difference around the world!

Leverage your degree long after graduation by tapping into this powerful network and making connections wherever your degree takes you.

We're here for you

Keep your career on the move with year-round opportunities to develop your professional capacity, such as:

- Access to Flinders CareerHub for job listings and career support for two years
- Professional development opportunities
- Networking at a range of course, College and University events
- Mentoring a current student
- Postgraduate study or short courses
- Public lectures – in person, live streamed or recorded

These opportunities are promoted in our monthly alumni e-newsletter – keep an eye out for it in your inbox. And don't forget to update us if you move or change email address, that way we can let you know about events and opportunities in your location.



Flinders NT Medical Program 10 Year Anniversary Gala

Celebrating Alumni Achievements

Flinders is honoured to count among its alumni:

1 Fields Medallist

6 Rhodes Scholars

30 Fulbright Scholars

350+ Australian Honours Recipients



Flinders University Alumni Awards

The annual Flinders University Alumni Awards acknowledge the significant contributions made by our graduates in their field, to the University or to the community locally, nationally and internationally. The awards include the Convocation Medal, Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Early Career Alumni Awards.

Congratulations to our 2022 recipients!

Convocation Medal

Dr Ruth Mitchell

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery 2007

Professor Justine Smith

Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine) 1999

Distinguished Alumni Award

Anastasia Bougesis

Bachelor of Health Sciences (Paramedic) 2010, Bachelor of Nursing 2012

Felicity Crowther

Bachelor of Disability and Community Rehabilitation with Honours 2012

Dr James Doube AAM

Bachelor of Science 1996, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery with Honours 2002

Dr David Jeffery

Bachelor of Technology (Forensic and Analytical Chemistry) 2001, Bachelor of Science with Honours 2002, Doctor of Philosophy (Chemistry) 2005

Hannah Kent

Bachelor of Creative Arts 2007, Bachelor of Creative Arts with Honours 2009

Helen Leake AM

Bachelor of Arts 1983

Early Career Alumni Award

Launched in 2020, the Early Career Alumni Award recognises the outstanding achievements and contributions of graduates in their early career (up to five years after graduating from an undergraduate or postgraduate degree).

This year we celebrate the achievements of Early Career Alumni Awardees:

Kim Anastasiou

Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics with Honours 2018

Assistant Professor Suvimol Charoensiddhi

Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine) 2017

Rikki Cooke

Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) 2014, Master of Social Work 2017

Laura Drexler

Master of Audiology 2020

Dr Brittany Johnson

Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics 2011, Doctor of Philosophy 2020

Anthony Robinson

Bachelor of Creative Arts (Digital Media) 2019, Bachelor of Creative Arts with Honours 2021

Consider nominating a recent Flinders University graduate you know in the 2023 mid-year nomination round.

Read more:

[Flinders.edu.au/alumni-awards](https://flinders.edu.au/alumni-awards)



**Professor
Justine Smith**



Dr David Jeffery



**Dr Brittany
Johnson**



We look forward to staying connected

We are so excited for your next move after you graduate from Flinders University, but we also want to continue to engage with you, inspire you and help you reach your career goals into the future.

Staying connected is an important way for us to let you know about Flinders University Alumni Network activities, professional development opportunities, reunions and events in your location (whether that is Sydney, Shanghai or Stewart Park).

You can stay connected by updating your contact details whenever you move or change jobs. Fill in the online form or contact the Alumni Relations Team.

Update your details via:
[Flinders.edu.au/update](https://flinders.edu.au/update)

Contact the Alumni Relations Team to find out how you can get involved, share your experiences and develop new ones:

alumni@flinders.edu.au

+61 8 8201 7969

[Flinders.edu.au/alumni](https://flinders.edu.au/alumni)



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