

Research capability
delivering value

A close-up photograph of a hand cupping a glowing, orange, spherical object. The hand is positioned centrally, with fingers slightly curled. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the skin and the glow of the sphere. A large, bright yellow cross-like shape is partially visible on the right side of the frame.

Global Business Innovation

Enabling Capability Platform

Contact us to partner for a better future

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[www.rmit.edu.au/research/research-expertise/
our-focus/enabling-capability-platforms](http://www.rmit.edu.au/research/research-expertise/our-focus/enabling-capability-platforms)

Creating a more innovative nation

Globalisation has increased the speed and scale of change across all aspects of business, heightening the need for companies to innovate or stagnate.

Innovation takes many forms and can be applied to benefit any organisation, from a start-up technology enterprise or family business, to a government department or multinational company.

The need to lift Australia's capacity for innovation has been the catalyst for establishing RMIT's **Global Business Innovation Enabling Capability Platform** (ECP). This capability platform brings together hundreds of our researchers with the collective aim of increasing the understanding, value and impact of innovation in Australia.

Innovation is an inherently complex and multifaceted concept and therefore requires a cross-disciplinary research approach. Our research expertise within the Global Business Innovation ECP includes business strategy, management, economics, leadership, human resource management, organisational behaviour, sociology, psychology, law, information systems and logistics, accounting and design. We also draw on RMIT's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) expertise.

We are examining technological and non-technological innovation and also shedding light on the 'soft' aspects of innovation processes – the people, structures, systems, culture, routines and behaviours that either promote or hinder innovation in organisations.

This increased understanding of how to be more innovative, will enable our University and the Australian public and private sectors to translate our shared research findings into innovative products, services, systems and models that lead to world-changing economic, social and environmental benefits.

Research aligned with real business needs

The creation of the Global Business Innovation ECP and RMIT's seven other Enabling Capability Platforms marks a new era of collaborative co-creation between our internal research community and our external partners.

The eight ECPs provide a framework for focusing the University's diverse research capabilities more intensely on the needs of our industry partners and the wider community.

This ECP serves as a streamlined, single point of contact within the University for research projects and partnerships that focus on business innovation. A Sector Expert Research Advisory Group of business leaders and other stakeholders will help shape the future direction and priorities of this platform.

In 2017, we also engaged with 40 top-level executives from leading public and private organisations to identify the skills, management tools and methods most likely to be strategic priorities for Australian business in the future.

We are establishing cross-disciplinary research partnerships to examine all facets of innovation, while also working across the other ECPs to increase the innovation capabilities of all RMIT's external partners. Policy makers in government and industry peak bodies also regularly ask us to provide evidence-based advice and assistance to address policy issues relating to industry and business innovation.

We are deepening our understanding of innovative business practices and approaches.



Our vision

Anne-Laure Mention, Director, RMIT Global Business Innovation ECP



Together with our public and private sector partners, we will generate research-driven change to unlock the value and impact of innovation in Australia and worldwide.

We will increase the innovation capabilities of both sectors through collaborative and multidisciplinary research that examines the innovation lifecycle and how to improve innovative decision-making within organisations.



Examples of Global Business Innovation ECP collaborative research projects

RMIT is collaborating with the medical technology (MedTech) industry to investigate the regulatory implications and market opportunities in using additive manufacturing (3D printing) to produce medical implants.

At present, there is no nationally or globally accepted framework for regulating the additive manufacturing implants industry. This project aims to contribute to the development of a regulatory framework and subsequent guidelines for the adoption and diffusion of this disruptive new technology, to benefit the industry, patients and health care system.

This research involves engaging with industry associations, regulatory bodies, new and established MedTech companies, and leading research centres such as RMIT's Advanced Manufacturing Precinct.

This project is being funded through RMIT's ECP Opportunity Fund.



RMIT's financial technology (FinTech) research and innovation capability is being developed through collaboration and knowledge sharing with a number of global partners who are leaders in the FinTech space.

New technologies are driving massive change in financial systems and there is strong demand for academia to intensify research and analysis in this sector.

This project is building the University's research expertise in fields such as cyber security, blockchain technology, data analytics, economic and regulatory policy support, and law and strategic management.

This project is being funded through RMIT's ECP Capability Development Fund.

Key capabilities

Hundreds of expert research affiliates in disciplines ranging from business, management, entrepreneurship, economics, accounting, leadership and law, to human resource management, organisational behaviour, sociology, information systems, psychology, engineering and industrial management, with a shared interest in innovation.

Internationally recognised areas of research excellence in:

- > business and management
- > marketing
- > information systems
- > accounting, auditing and accountability
- > applied economics
- > applied mathematics

Additional research strengths in:

- > global logistics and supply chain management
- > international business
- > entrepreneurship and innovation
- > governance
- > culture and behaviour
- > people, organisations and performance

Research facilities and centres include:

- > The RMIT Trading Facility – one of Australia's largest tertiary-based financial trading centres, with real-time market information
- > The Behavioural Business Lab – studies business decision-making using psychological approaches
- > The Advanced Manufacturing Precinct
- > The Centre for People, Organisation and Work
- > The Centre for Integrated Project Solutions

Close relationships with:

- > RMIT Vietnam and RMIT Europe
- > federal and state governments
- > Industry Growth Centres
- > sector and industry peak bodies
- > The International Society for Professional Innovation Management
- > major industries, research institutions and networks in Australia, Asia, America and Europe

Research and innovation priorities

Collaborative design approaches for innovation

Gathering together the competencies and skills required to engage in an open and collaborative innovation process. Focus areas include:

- > designing innovation ecosystems and platforms
- > stakeholder engagement
- > co-creation
- > creativity and design thinking
- > business models
- > foresight
- > user experience and lead user innovation, and
- > value constellations and ideation

Organisational transformation and innovation capabilities enhancement

Embracing the range of capabilities needed to organise and implement innovation, including:

- > leadership and human resource management
- > technology and processes management
- > ICT-enabled innovation
- > knowledge and change management
- > engaging communication
- > quality management, and
- > supply chain management and optimisation.

This priority area also examines changes in work practices due to digital transformation.

Innovation performance and governance

This area addresses:

- > the interplay between innovation, regulation, law and intellectual property
- > management control and performance measurement
- > governance for innovative systems
- > the conditions needed for innovation to thrive
- > mechanisms and systems that support the diffusion of innovation, and
- > business ethics

Innovation valuation and impact measurement

This area focuses on measuring, valuing and evaluating innovation at all levels, from studying teams, projects and organisations, to entire nations.

It also studies innovation-related objects such as brands.

Key application areas

The research skills and competencies within this ECP can be applied to any sector or organisation, regardless of size or stage of development. The primary areas where our expertise will be directed are indicated below.



RMIT'S ENABLING CAPABILITY PLATFORMS (ECPs)

- > Advanced Materials
- > Biomedical and Health Innovation
- > Advanced Manufacturing and Fabrication
- > Design and Creative Practice
- > **Global Business Innovation**
- > Information and Systems (Engineering)
- > Social Change
- > Urban Futures