

Organisation

Basis of authority

The institution was established under the *Sunshine Coast University College Act 1994* and took its first students in 1996. Full university powers were granted under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998*.

Functions and powers

The University's functions are to:

- provide education at university standard;
- provide facilities for, and encourage, study and research;
- encourage the advancement and development of knowledge, and its application to government, industry, commerce and the community;
- provide courses of study or instruction, at levels of achievement the Council considers appropriate, to meet the needs of the community;
- confer higher education awards;
- disseminate knowledge and promote scholarship;
- provide facilities and resources for the wellbeing of the University's staff, students and other persons undertaking courses at the University;
- exploit commercially, for the University's benefit, a facility or resource of the University, including, for example, study, research or knowledge, or the practical application of study, research or knowledge, belonging to the University, whether alone or with someone else; and
- perform other functions given to the University under the Act or another Act.

The University's powers are:

1. Under the *University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998* the University has all the powers of an individual. It may, for example:
 - a. enter into contracts;
 - b. acquire, hold, dispose of, and deal with property;
 - c. appoint agents and attorneys;
 - d. engage consultants;
 - e. fix charges, and other terms, for services and other facilities it supplies; and
 - f. do anything else necessary or convenient to be done for its functions.
2. Without limiting subsection (1), the University has the powers given to it under its Act or another Act.
3. The University may exercise its powers inside and outside Queensland.
4. Without limiting subsection (3), the University may exercise its powers outside Australia.

Strategic framework

The imperative of a changing policy environment and increasing national and international competition requires that the University energetically pursue its distinctiveness through a long-term strategic approach built around two major themes:

- regional engagement
- sustainability

Regional engagement

The University has earned an international reputation for implementing the engagement emphasis of its mission. Engagement has been at local, national and international levels, and is manifest across the spectrum of University activities. The University is intent on developing its symbiotic relationship with the regional community as a springboard for wider national and international engagement.

Sustainability

Concepts of sustainability drove the way in which the University was conceived and developed, including through sustainable master planning, sub-tropical architectural design, and academic teaching and research related to the sustainable development of the Sunshine Coast region.

The concept is now much wider, and encompasses every aspect of human life—social inclusion, energy for the future, the effective and equitable use of natural resources, preservation of built and natural environments, preservation of cultural and social heritages, and the development of sustainable economic opportunities.

Planning for the future

The Strategic Plan <www.usc.edu.au/strategicplan> is the University's highest-level planning document, along with the Master Plan. Functional Plans apply University-wide and drive resource allocations through the budget process, complementing the Strategic Plan. Operational Plans for individual cost centres support initiatives outlined in both the Strategic and Functional Plans.

All plans are reviewed and updated during the budget and planning process in September each year. The Strategic Plan is due for review in 2010.

Annual review of operations

As a review of its operations each year, the University of the Sunshine Coast measures its progress according to the goals and key performance indicators for eight areas, as outlined by the Strategic Plan (2005-2010):

- growth and development (page 6)
- learning and teaching (page 10)
- research (page 14)
- regional engagement (page 18)
- internationalisation (page 22)
- student support (page 26)
- staff (page 30)
- environmental sustainability (page 34)