Southern Cross University (SCU) generates, disseminates and undertakes research and research training in key areas that have global and regional impact.

The University is committed to building its research profile through the strategic recognition and support of its research and emerging research strengths. To help achieve this objective, SCU builds strategic collaborations with other universities and organisations, including regionally-based stakeholders. The Collaborative Research Network (CRN) initiative is providing an excellent platform and opportunity to facilitate collaboration between SCU and larger more established universities.

In the Excellence in Research for Australia 2010 Report, SCU received the top rating of ‘well above world standard’ in the field of geochemistry; ‘above world standard’ in the field of earth sciences; and a ‘world standard’ rating in the fields of agriculture, forestry and nursing.

Our research achievements include Australian Research Council Fellowships and a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award in the field of geochemistry. SCU has organised its research efforts around two Special Research Centres (functioning at a world class level), six research centres (which have the potential to perform at a world class level) and small clusters of emerging research strength:

(i) Special Research Centres
   • Southern Cross Plant Science
   • Southern Cross Geoscience

(ii) Research Centres
   • Children and Young People
   • Coastal Biogeochemistry
   • Gambling Education and Research
   • Marine Ecology
   • Tourism, Leisure and Work
   • Forest Science Research

The Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) funding scheme has been of important component of SCU’s collaborative research strategy and profile and have facilitated a significant growth in human capacity. The University is currently a core participant in the following CRCs:

- CRC for Wound Management
- CRC for Infrastructure and Engineering and Asset Management
- CRC for Remote Economic Participation
- CRC for Contamination Assessment Remediation of the Environment
- CRC for Rail Innovation

Collaborative Research Network - Policy and Planning Research for Sustainable Regions ($4.64m)

The CRN was established to support and progress several clearly defined areas of emerging research strength at SCU that cluster around policy and planning research for sustainable regions. The CRN project, by facilitating access to specialist expertise, training and dedicated research infrastructure and resources, aims to build research strength in social and economic regional sustainability and, in so doing, significantly improve research outcomes at SCU. The CRN is focused in areas of emerging research strength at SCU, to enable stronger publication and grant results.

The CRN links SCU research with the benefits of a number of prominent external Research Centres, these include:

- Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR, UQ) linked with the SCU Centre for Tourism, Leisure and Work (CTLW)
- Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC, UNSW) linked with the SCU Centre for Children & Young People (CCYP)
- University of Sydney linked with the SCU School of Health and Human Sciences.