Sue

I have two quite different research areas. The first is in criminal justice studies, in particular looking at state responses to serious crime in China. The second is in cross cultural communication, which entails looking at different communication styles and social behaviours across cultures. My research interests me greatly because both society and the legal system in China is changing so rapidly, it’s exciting to be able to follow and analyse these momentous changes. My research in criminal justice studies focuses on some human rights issues in China, notably the death penalty. Helping to get the word out about what’s happening in China is important. Also in terms of intercultural communication, I think that the Australian community has a lot to learn about the importance of understanding others.

Adriana

My research focus is on helping university teachers develop language and culture methodology. I believe my research is really important because it aims at helping students develop an intercultural point of view.

Sue

My PhD students help me enormously in my research, even though they work on projects that are quite independent from my own. Adriana for example, who is looking at how to teach culture in the foreign language curriculum, has made me stop and rethink what it is that we mean when we talk about culture. Her work is at the cutting edge of language studies. I think the most important qualities that make a good researcher are patience, stamina and curiosity.

Adriana

I believe the student/supervisor relationship is the key element in the PhD process. Sue has helped me become an independent researcher in the area of interest, which is intercultural communication, and she has also become my mentor by providing me with inside knowledge of the academic world.

Sue

What’s so special about the University? Well I’ve been working here at Griffith for fifteen years now and have had the enormous privilege of working with some of the best Asia scholars in the country. Griffith is the home of the first Asian studies school in Australia. Griffith Asia Institute has over fifty members who work on a wide range of area of studies, from disciplines that range from international politics to film studies. I think the prospective research students should consider the Griffith Asia Institute as a home for their research because of the wide range of expertise we have available.
Research students here can study anything from Indonesian anthropology to international relations, politics and even criminology.

**Adriana**

I decided to come to Australia because of its strong multicultural society and particularly Griffith University because of the career opportunities. I arrived in Australia nine years ago as an international student from Argentina to study a bachelor of arts in languages and linguistics at Griffith because it has a very strong focus on applied linguistics and I’ve been here ever since. I am now completing a PhD and also teaching at the University full time.

There are many institutions within Griffith University that have helped me in developing as a professional. The Griffith Graduate Research School for instance provides lots of professional development workshops for PhD students. This has helped me develop networks with other international PhD students. The Griffith Institute of Higher Education has helped me develop as a university teacher and of course the Griffith Asia Institute has provided me with a forum of experts in the area of Chinese language and culture, which is one of the aspects I explore in my PhD thesis.

I think prospective PhD research students should focus on a project that they are very passionate about, that will see them through the ups and downs of the PhD rollercoaster ride.