Master of Professional Studies (MPST) - MProfSt New

This program is offered from Semester 1, 2013.

shifts in organisational strategy. The program therefore contributes to developing professional expertise through research and development projects undertaken during the program.

The Master of Professional Studies . focuses on providing advanced-level study opportunities for professionals with the appropriate entry qualifications to:

- enable them to critically review literature to address theoretical and practice-orientated questions including recent developments in their area of professional practice;
- enable them to apply knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to their field of work; and
- design and implement projects to further investigate questions and issues applicable to their professional practice as related to workplace challenges, change and strategic direction.

An essential feature of this program is that participants continue their work while undertaking projects which integrate disciplined enquiry with complex practice-orientated work issues.

Program objectives

Successful completion of the program will enable graduates to:

- demonstrate analytical, critical and creative thinking on their professional practice, work place applications and relevant theory;
- postulate directions for the investigation of unsolved problems in their work place;
- demonstrate a high level of skill in identifying, analysing and synthesising complex information, concepts and theories in choosing and implementing solutions appropriate for addressing hypotheses related to work-based capacity building, professional practice and innovation
- undertake and write professional, evidence-based reports on projects relating to their professional practice;
- demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of their projects and manage these limitations by generating and evaluating complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level;
- demonstrate a high level of skill in assessing and addressing ethical/confidential concerns in their study and related professional practice;
- develop work-based project plans and outcomes that integrate theory and practice and present this using communication and technical research skills that justify conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences; and
- evaluate, analyse and report the results of their projects that contribute to professional practice and scholarship in a manner appropriate to their audience.

Program aims

The aim of this program is to provide experienced professionals with the opportunities to demonstrate, autonomously and creatively the application of knowledge and skills in their professional practice and further learning. Creativity and initiative are encouraged in engaging issues that are relevant and meaningful to their professional practice and work place challenges, helping to build the capacity and resilience of the student's organisations/communities and contribute to their self-directed learning and career development.

Admission requirements

Admission is by completed online application and interview. To be considered for entry, an applicant must normally possess a bachelor degree from an Australian university or equivalent, and have the equivalent of at least five years' experience in their field. Anyone wishing to gain entry to the program on the basis of equivalent qualifications and/or experience should contact the University for consideration for admission on this basis.

How to apply

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Application for postgraduate programs may be made directly to USQ.

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professional knowledge. Students must seek the prior approval of the program coordinator before enrolling in the elective courses.

(4) **Optional Publishable Article:** Students may elect to formulate and submit for blind review, a publication representing the study's (or part thereof) contribution to practice and/or relevant theory as appropriate. The article equates to 2 units and is assessed following standard academic blind peer-review processes. The purpose of this option is to illustrate against prevailing benchmarks, the specialised knowledge and skills associated with the student's relevant professional practice and demonstrate the appropriate cognitive and technical skills required at this qualification level. Peer reviewers will include independent academic and/or practice-based experts who will assess whether the work is publishable and meets the requisite critical, creative, analytical and communications skills associated with the Masters level qualification.

Program completion requirements

To graduate from the Master of Professional Studies . program a candidate must complete a minimum of twelve course units comprising no less than the completion of the core courseWRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies and the work-based research project WRP8010 Work-based Research Project A and WRP8011 Work-based Research Project B. Students are required to compile a final master's dissertation (minimum of 15,000 words including artefacts developed in the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies course and generated from the work-based project) or equivalent body of work for final examination by independent examiners. Students electing to complete a further work-based project WRP8012 Work-based Research Project C and WRP8013 Work-based Research Project D are required to compile a final master's dissertation (minimum 25,000 words including relevant artefacts developed in the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies course and generated from the work-based projects) or equivalent body of work for final examination by independent examiners.

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 4 years to complete this program.

IT requirements

Computer literacy is now expected as part of professional life, and as an integral element in the studying and learning process. Many courses make use of the Internet through online discussion groups and course web pages. Students must have reliable and ready access to e-mail and the internet. Broadband access would be a significant advantage.

Students are referred to recommended hardware and software requirements at http://www.usq.edu.au/current-students/support/computing/hardware.

Twenty-four hour computer access is available at USQ.

Exit points

The exit point for students who do not complete the requirements of the Master of Professional Studies . is the Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies. Students will be eligible for this award if, whilst enrolled in the Master of Professional Studies . they have enrolled and completed at least 4 units at USQ.

Exemptions

Students entering the program with a Masters degree (AQF Level 9) or an Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma (AQF level 8) may apply for up to six exemptions. The application for exemptions based on accredited prior learning normally is submitted when applying for admission to the program

Formal assessment of non-accredited prior learning is developed in the course WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies and is the only method of applying for consideration for exemptions for non-accredited prior learning (RPL).

The total number of credits granted will vary according to the assessed level of experience and expertise that can be shown to be of relevance to the student's intended work-based research project/s.

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