Master of Professional Studies (MPST) - MProfSt

	External							
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July) Semester 3 (November)							
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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.

Australian Qualifications Framework

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a single national, comprehensive system of qualifications offered by higher education institutions (including universities), vocational education and training institutions and secondary schools. Each AQF qualification has a set of descriptors which define the type and complexity of knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills that a graduate who has been awarded that qualification has attained, and the typical volume of learning associated with that qualification type.

This program is at AQF Qualification Level 09. Graduates at this level will have specialised knowledge and skills for research, and/or professional practice and/or further learning.

The full set of levels criteria and qualification type descriptors can be found by visiting www.aqf.edu.au.

Admission requirements

Admission to the Master of Professional Studies is by completed online application and interview. To be considered for entry, an applicant must normally possess a bachelor degree 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.

All students are required to satisfy the applicable English language requirements.

If you do not meet the English language requirements you may apply to study a University-approved English language program. On successful completion of the English language program, you may be admitted to an award program.

Program fees

Domestic full fee paying place

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through the full fees paid by the student. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the Course Fee Finder.

Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called FEE-HELP provided they meet the residency and citizenship requirements.

Australian citizens, Permanent Humanitarian Visa holders, Permanent Resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens who will be resident outside Australia for the duration of their program pay full tuition fees and are not eligible for FEE-Help.

International full fee paying place

International students pay full fees. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken and whether they are studied on-campus, via distance education/online. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the Course Fee Finder.

Program structure

The Master of Professional Studies is a 12-unit program made up of four sections:

- (1) **Compulsory course:** All students are required to take the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies 2 unit course which includes:
 - The theoretical principles underpinning the professional studies program
 - Reflective practice (optional RPL portfolio, see "Credit")
 - Research philosophies and methods
 - Critical thinking in professional practice
 - Ethics in research and in professional practice
 - Project management fundamentals

- The development of a work-based project(s) and Work-Based Research Project Proposal
- (2) Work-based Research Projects: Students are required to complete a minimum of 4 units, WRP8010 Work-based Research Project A and WRP8011 Work-based Research Project B up to a maximum of 8 units WRP8012 Work-based Research Project C and WRP8013 Work-based Research Project D of work-based research projects. As part of the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies, students will prepare a work-based research project plan that includes detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, the project's implementation, anticipated contribution to practice and organisational development that are to be achieved through the implementation of the research project. Students are required to complete a minimum of four units of supervised project work culminating in a dissertation (minimum 15000 words) or equivalent body of work which will include artefacts that have been developed in the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies course.
- (3) **Optional Elective Postgraduate course work:**

Please refer to computer requirements

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 of 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.

Credit

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 units of credit. The application for credit 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 credit 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.

A maximum of six units of credit may be granted, which may be non-course specific. USQ is a participating university in the Professional Development Pathways initiative, and appropriate credit will be given in accordance with the scheme.

Credit for accredited prior learning and non-accredited prior learning may not exceed a maximum of six units in total.

Recommended enrolment pattern

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

Students may be admitted to the program at the beginning of Semester 1 or Semester 2 or Semester 3.

The 'standard' rate of progression for part-time students is 4 units per year for three years. Students are able to accelerate their progression through the program by enrolling in Semester 3 courses. Students should undertake the course WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies at the commencement of their program and prior to their enrolment in the course WRP8010 Work-based Research Project A unless agreed otherwise with their supervisor.

Recommended enrolment pattern for students undertaking a work-based project with no electives

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

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Recommended enrolment pattern for students with up to 4 units of electives and/or the Publishable Article

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

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Consult the Handbook on the Web at http://www.usq.edu.au/handbook/current for any updates that may occur during the year. Master of Professional Studies (MPST) - MProfSt (2016)

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WRP8020 Work-based Research: Publishable Paper*			2,3	1,2,3			

Footnotes

* This course is worth 2 units.