

Master of Counselling (MCCO) - MCouns New

	External**
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July)
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
Residential school:	Ipswich campus — compulsory
Standard duration:	2 years full-time, 4 years part-time
Program articulation:	From: Graduate Diploma of Counselling To: Doctor of Philosophy

Footnotes

** There is a 5 day compulsory residential school for each of the four Foundations of Practice courses.

Contact us

Future Australian and New Zealand students	Future International students	Current students
Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 269 500 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 5315 Email: study@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Phone: +61 7 4631 5543 Email: international@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 007 252 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 2285 Email usq.support@usq.edu.au

Professional accreditation

The Master of Counselling is designed to address all of the training standards in the [PACFA Training Standards 2014](#).

The Master of Counselling (Clinical Supervision) is designed to meet the [PACFA Supervisor Training Standards](#).

The Master of Counselling (Mental Health Counselling) is designed to meet the [PACFA Mental Health Practitioner Mental Health Competencies](#).

Graduates of the Master of Counselling will be able to apply for full membership of the [Australian Counselling Association \(ACA\)](#) and registration as a Counsellor with the [Australian Register of Counsellors and Psychotherapists](#).

Program aims

The Master of Counselling is available to graduates of human services, health, nursing, psychology and other allied health disciplines.

The Master of Counselling has two main streams. The first stream is a qualifying program designed to meet the PACFA and ACA counsellor training requirements for counsellor registration. This stream has a choice of five specialisations. It contains admission processes, foundational courses, residential schools and practicums to ensure training standards are assured to the highest possible standards.

The Master of Counselling is a program that allows students and professionals to develop knowledge and expertise in one of five counselling speciality areas, and at completion, to be eligible to apply for a member of PACFA. The specialist areas are:

- Alcohol and Drug Studies *
- Child, Youth and Family Therapy *
- Clinical Supervision *
- Mental Health Counselling *
- Foundations of Practice *

* This specialisation has the core training for counsellor preparation and is a required component for professional counsellor registration. Students seeking registration should ensure they have completed this specialisation. The Foundations of Practice has a compulsory five day residential school attached with each of its four courses.

The second stream is called the Master of Counselling (Advanced Practice) and is designed to advance knowledge, research, and practice for applicants who are already registered professionals in counselling or related disciplines and thus are not required to meet initial registration requirements. This program does not require students to undertake foundational courses, residential schools, or a practicum. It offers maximum choices, flexibility, and a simpler admission process.

Program objectives

On completion of the award, students will be able to:

- (1) Demonstrate understanding of theories and models fundamental to fields associated with counselling assessment and treatment.
- (2) Employ advanced interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills appropriate to the context and format.
- (3) Apply critical reasoning, judgment and problem solving to a range of professional, legal, and ethical practice issues.
- (4) Translate and contextualise knowledge within a counselling context.
- (5) Demonstrate ability to apply discipline knowledge, ethics, boundaries, and professional practice skills within a counselling role.
- (6) Identify, interpret and apply research methodologies, including their application to a research question relevant to their area of specialisation by designing and implementing a research project or significant scholarly activity within a selected discipline area.

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

To be eligible for admission, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

EITHER Master of Counselling (Qualifying)

- Completion of an Australian university three year Bachelor degree in any area (or equivalent)
- Completion of the Graduate Diploma of Counselling at USQ with a GPA of 5 or above
- provide two satisfactory Referee Reports and a report to address the [Selection Criteria](#) indicating the applicant's abilities to successfully undertake the professional and research components of the program; and
- participate in an interview with a panel of School staff.

- English Language Proficiency requirements for Category 3.

OR Master of Counselling (Advanced Practice)

- current evidence of full membership of a relevant professional body, such as the Australian Psychological Society or the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia.
- English Language Proficiency requirements for Category 3.

All students are required to satisfy the applicable [English language requirements](#).

If students do not meet the English language requirements they may apply to study a University-approved [English language program](#). On successful completion of the English language program, students may be admitted to an award program.

Requirements for professional experience placements

Practical and/or clinical experience will be undertaken as part of the program. Students will negotiate supervised industry placement where they will have to demonstrate competency in those components of the course(s) which require application in a counselling situation.

Students undertaking practical and/or clinical experience are responsible for their own transport to and from their clinical placements and are also responsible for their own safety in organising that transport, whether public or private.

Students must have a Blue Card issued by the Commission of Children and Young People and Child Guardian in Queensland or its respective interstate equivalent, or be a registered health professional who qualifies for a professional exemption, to enrol in [COU8001](#). These courses must be satisfactorily completed in order to graduate from the Master of Counselling.

Information about application requirements for each state can be found below:

- [National](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [V](#)

Program structure

Training program philosophy

USQ counselling programs prioritise high quality, research-informed, client-focussed, transferrable counselling knowledge and skills to ensure maximum versatility and responsiveness to client diversity. The programs emphasise respecting client dignity throughout treatment, and emphasise collaboratively designing and adapting treatment to fit client goals, values, strengths, preferences, and treatment response.

Foundations of Practice specialisation

- ^ Please refer to section headed “Clinical requirements” below for information pertaining to COU8001
- + Students are required to undertake a practicum placement for this course

Alcohol and Drug Studies specialisation

The Master of Counselling (Alcohol and Drug Studies) consists of 13 compulsory courses. Three of the compulsory courses are two units each.

COU8003 Global Comparative Counselling Practices	1,2	ONL
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Footnotes

This course has a compulsory 5 day residential school

* Two units

^ Please refer to section headed "Clinical requirements" below for information pertaining to COU8001

Clinical Supervision specialisation

The Master of Counselling (Clinical Supervision) consists of 13 compulsory courses. Three of the compulsory courses are two units each.

RSH8000 Introduction to Research	1,2	EXT, ONL
MSC8001 Research Project I*	1,2	ONL, ONC
MSC8002 Research Project II*	1,2	ONL, ONC
COU8001 Masters Counselling Practicum ^{*^}	1,2	EXT
COU8003 Global Comparative Counselling Practices	1,2	ONL

Footnotes

This course has a compulsory 5 day residential school

* Two units

^ Please refer to section headed "Clinical requirements" below for information pertaining to COU8001

Advanced Practice specialisation

The Advanced Practice specialisation is designed for qualified and practicing counsellors or psychologists. It is not an introductory program, and neither does it have a compulsory practicum.

The Master of Counselling (Advanced Practice) consists of 4 compulsory courses. Two of the compulsory courses are 2 units each. The remaining courses may be selected from the approved courses listed below.

Program completion requirements

Students must have successfully completed the core and approved courses (as applicable) to successfully complete the program.

Required time limits

Minimum time to complete is two years. Students have a maximum of five years to complete this program.

Research

The Master of Counselling contains four units (two courses) of research. Students will nominate their preferred research topic from a list of available projects reflecting the research expertise of the academic staff. All research projects must receive ethics approval before they commence and will undergo a risk assessment with an appropriate risk management plan.

IT requirements

Students should visit the USQ [minimum computing standards](#) to check that their computers are capable of running the appropriate software and versions of Internet web browsers and to check the minimum and recommended standards for software.

Residential schools

The attendance requirement of residential schools within this de

Foundations of Practice specialisation 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.

Alcohol and Drug Studies specialisation recommended enrolment pattern

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@l ropb	Vb^o l c m o l d o ^ j ^ k a p b j b p q b o f k t e f ^ e ` l r o p b f p k l o j ^ i i v p q r a f b a						Obp f a b k q f ^ i p ` e l l i	B k o l i j b k q o b n r f o b j b k q p
	L k ^ ^ j m r p % L K @ &		B u q b o k ^ i % B U Q &		L k i f k b % L K I &			
	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j		
								lowing Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV
MSC8002 Research Project II *	2	2			2	2		Pre-requisite: MSC8001
COU8003 Global Comparative Counselling Practices					2	2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: MCCO or PDEV

Footnotes

- # This course has a compulsory 5 day residential school.
- * Two units
- ^ Please refer to section headed “Clinical requirements” below for information pertaining to COU8001

Clinical Supervision specialisation 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.

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	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j		
Year 1 / Semester 1 entry - Full Time Pattern								
COU5009 Counselling Skills and Applications #			1	1			C	Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV
COU5006 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity, and Ethics GDCN GrGCCO GrGDEV Pre-requisite: Pstudents Pt			1	1			C at*	Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV

Ptu

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	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j		
								lowing Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV
COU5007 Counselling Issues and Contexts [#]			1	2			C	Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV
COU5005 Mental Health Practice 2					1	2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV
COU5003 Introduction to Clinical Supervision					1	1,2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV
RSH8000 Introduction to Research	2	1			2	1		
MSC8001 Research Project I [*]	2	1			2	1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: MCTN or MCOP or MCTE or BSCH or MSCN or have the approval of their program coordinator
COU8001 Masters Counselling Practicum ^{^*}			2	1				Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV
MSC8002 Research Project II [*]	2	2			2	2		Pre-requisite: MSC8001
COU8003 Global Comparative Counselling Practices					2	2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: MCCO or PDEV

Footnotes

This course has a compulsory 5 day residential school.

* Two units

Please refer to section headed "Clinical requirements" below for inform0 1 524.944 375.151 Tm6719.82 lattICES