

Master of Counselling (MCCO) - MCouns

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

Footnotes

+ Depending on courses selected, the Clinical Supervision specialisation may only be available part-time.

** There is a 5 day mandatory 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 mandatory 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

This specialisation is completed as part of the Graduate Diploma of Counselling, which is a pre-requisite to enrolment in the Master of Counselling. The Master of Counselling (Foundations of Practice) consists of 10 compulsory courses and 3 approved courses. Three of the compulsory courses are 2 units each. Students will be required to attend mandatory residential school workshops for each course from the Foundations of Practice (COU5009, COU5006, COU5010, COU5007). Students will also be required to take a counselling practicum as part of the Masters of Counselling program (with the exception of the Master of Counselling - Advanced Practice stream).

COU5006 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity, and Ethics [#]	1	EXT
COU5010 Counselling Frameworks [#]	2	EXT
COU5007 Counselling Issues and Contexts [#]	2	EXT
COU5012 Contexts of Mental Health Counselling	1	ONL
COU5004 Mental Health Practice 1	1	ONL
COU5005 Mental Health Practice 2	2	ONL
COU5003 Introduction to Clinical Supervision	1,2	ONL
RSH8000 Introduction to Research	1,2	ONC, ONL
MSC8001 Research Project I [*]	1,2	ONL, ONC
MSC8002 Research Project II [*]	1,2	ONL, ONC
COU8001 Masters Counselling Practicum ^{*^}	1,2	EXT
Choose one of the follo		

@I ropb	Vb^o l c mo l do^ j ^ka pb j bpqbo fk t ef^ e` l ropb fp klo j ^iiv p qrafba						Obpfabkqf^i p`e l i	Bkoi j bkq obnr fob j bkq
	Lk*^ j mrp %LK@%		Buqbok^i %BUQ%		L kifkb %LKI%			
	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j		
COU5012 Contexts of Mental Health Counselling					1	1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV or GCHH or GDHH or MOHH
COU5004 Mental Health Practice 1					1	1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV or GCHH or GDHH or MOHH

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Choose

[COU8003 Global](#)

[COU5003 Introduction to](#)

Footnotes

- ** Students choosing [COU4150 Wellbeing and Relationships](#) should take [COU4150 Wellbeing and Relationships](#) in Semester 2 and one approved Semester 1 course instead of [COU4150 Wellbeing and Relationships](#) in Semester 1. If [COU5003](#) is taken in Semester 2 students may take [COU4150 Wellbeing and Relationships](#) in Semester 1 and one approved course from [PSY5030](#), [PSY5040](#) or [PSY5050](#) in Semester 2.
- + Students are required to undertake a practicum placement.
- * Two units
- ^ Please refer to section headed "Requirements for professional registration".

Alcohol and Drug Studies s(1004sg to C

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	Sem 1		Sem 2		Sem 3		
	Vb^0	Pb j	Vb^0	Pb j	Vb^0	Pb j	
MSC8002 Research Project II*	2	2			2	2	Pre-requisite: MSC8001

Footnotes

- ** Students choosing [COU4150 Wellbeing and Relationships for Professionals](#) instead of [COU8003 Global Comparative Counselling Practices](#) should take [COU5003 Introduction to Clinical Supervision](#) in Semester 2 and [COU4150 Wellbeing and Relationships for Professionals](#) in Semester 1.
- * Two units
- ^ Please refer to section headed “Requirements for professional experience placements” for information pertaining to COU8001.

Child, Youth and Family Therapy 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.

Advanced 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.

Students should consult the Program Coordinator via usq.support@usq.edu.au.